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PUJARA RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET

Cheteshwar Pujara, the rock of Indian batting in the longest format for over a decade, on Sunday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, bringing the curtains down on an exemplary Test career. The 37-year-old made the announcement on social media, having played the last of his 103 Tests in 2023. With 7,195 runs at an average of 43.60, Pujara stands at eighth place in the all-time leading run-getters from India | **P11**

FIRST FLIGHT-TEST OF HOME-GROWN AIR DEF WEAPON SYSTEM

India's air defence shield poised to get major upgrade to defend against aerial threats

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a big boost to India's air defence capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS), the Ministry of Defence said on Sunday.

IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising the quick reaction surface to air missiles (QRSAM), very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missiles, and a high-power laser-based directed energy weapon (DEW).

The indigenous air defence system was flight-tested at 1230 hours off the coast of Odisha on Saturday. "During the flight-tests, three different targets including two high-speed fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicle targets and a multi-copter drone were simultaneously engaged and destroyed completely by the QRSAM, VSHORADS and High Energy Laser weapon system at different ranges and altitudes," the defence ministry said. It added that all the weapon system components, including the missile systems and drone detection and destruction system, command and control mechanism along with communication and radars, performed "flawlessly". The performance of the system was confirmed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.

DRDO conducts maiden flight-tests of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System

The missiles successfully intercepted and neutralised the indigenously developed, SHIKRA aerial targets, manufactured by Anadrone Systems. These targets fly at high speeds of 650 kmph with operational altitude of 9000m and ranges up to 200 km.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, the armed forces, and the defence industry for the successful development of IADWS. He said the flight-tests established the country's multi-layered air-defence capability.

The integrated air defence system will undergo more tests before being commissioned.

New India-Japan framework on AI, economic security

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and Japan are in the process of finalising a new bilateral framework to strengthen cooperation in economic security, with a focus on securing stable supply chains for critical goods coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan on August 29 and 30.

The framework is expected to cover key sectors including semiconductors, essential minerals, communications, clean energy, artificial intelligence (AI), and pharmaceuticals, sources said.

Both sides are also preparing to announce a dedicated AI Cooperation Initiative, aimed at supporting collaboration between startups and tech firms in the emerging artificial intelligence space.

The initiative aims to promote ties between Japanese and Indian firms. "Such cooperation is a win-win and mutually beneficial and can contribute to the growth of the Japanese economy," a source said.

The announcement is set to coincide with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Japan. Modi may also travel to Sendai to see an experimental bullet train and visit a leading chip-making equipment manufacturer.

Japan is home to major players in the global semiconductor industry, including Kioxia, Renesas Electronics, Sony Semiconductor Solutions, and Toshiba Electronic Devices. These companies are central to advancements in chip-making and related technologies.

Sendai, where Prime Minister Modi is expected to visit, is part of a region that has been increasingly focusing on semiconductor innovation and development, positioning itself as a hub for next-generation tech.

Modi is set to visit Japan on August 29-30 at invitation of Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba, to participate in the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit

During the visit, the two leaders will review the progress of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, with discussions also covering key areas such as defence.

EXPRESS READ

SIT starts gathering info on complainant, visits Mandya, TN

Bengaluru: The SIT, probing the Dharmasthala burial case, has started gathering clues on the complainant now named as accused for fraud and fabricating evidence. Officials are now in Mandya and Tamil Nadu to seek details from his family and friends | **P4**

MoD issues RFI to procure 76 new helicopters for Navy, Coast Guard

New Delhi: The Ministry of Defence on Sunday issued a request for information for the procurement of 76 naval utility helicopters for the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. While 51 helicopters will be for the Navy, the remaining are for the Coast Guard | **P7**

Sigandoor, Byndoor, Malpe, Karwar water aerodromes open for bids under UDAN

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

SIGANDOOR, Byndoor, Malpe, Ganeshgudi and Karwar have been identified as among the proposed water aerodromes available for bidding under the Centre's UDAN regional connectivity scheme to promote tourism, while bids have already been received for seaplane operations in Mangaluru and Kabini.

Sigandoor in Shivamogga district is known for the Goddess Chowdeshwari temple and has backwaters of the Linganamakki Dam, which is ideal for seaplane operations. Byndoor and Malpe in Udupi district are tourist hotspots with their beaches. Ganeshgudi, a town in Uttara Kannada, is known for Supa dam. Uttara Kannada district also boasts of Kali river estuary in Karwar. Kabini reservoir in Mysuru district is situated on the borders of the Nagarahole National Park that is famous for its wildlife tourism. Mangaluru, on the coastline, attracts tourists with diverse interests.

The Linganamakki Dam backwaters near Sigandoor, Shivamogga district | EXPRESS

Under UDAN 5.5, bids have already been received for seaplane operations in Mangaluru and Kabini. Letters of Intent have been issued for seaplane routes connecting these water aerodromes. **P5**

BJP, JDU may contest equal number of seats in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

SEAT-sharing talks between NDA allies for the Bihar assembly election are in the final stages with sources pointing towards BJP and JDU expected to contest an equal number of seats, likely around 100 each.

However, both parties are likely to face a challenge in satisfying smaller allies like Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM), which are demanding 40 and 20 seats.

A senior LJP (RV) leader said, "We have made it clear to contest not less than 40 seats in the elections." Even if Chirag's LJP (RV) relents, it is not expected to contest less than 30 seats, sources added.

On the other hand, a senior HAM leader said, "My party would not settle for less than 20 seats. We should not be offered fewer seats than what LJP gets. We have four legislators in the state assembly, while the LJP has none."

Bihar JDU president Umesh Kushwaha confirmed seat-sharing talks are underway, and it will be finalised at the appropriate time. "We will let you know when it is finalised," he said. Sources said the seat-sharing negotiations among NDA allies is likely to be finalised either by the end of August or the first week of September.

JDU, sources said, would not contest less than 100 seats in any condition. This means, sources said, that the BJP will also not accept less than 100 seats. The other ally, former union minister and MP Upendra Kushwaha has not opened his cards so far, but would like to contest on a 'respectable' number of seats.

In the 2020 elections, JDU contested 115 seats and won 43, while the BJP fought on 110 and won 74 seats.

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ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 25.08.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
- **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Bhadrapada • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Dwitheeya 11.19 am
- **Nakshatra:** Uttharaphalguni 3.42 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 06.08 am
Sunset 06.35 pm
Moonrise 07.40 am
Moonset 08.00 pm

People make a beeline to purchase flowers ahead of Ganesha Chaturthi at KR Market on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Prices of flowers, fruits go north this season

Jasmine hits ₹3,800/kg, yelakki bananas dearer at ₹160/kg

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WITH Gowri-Ganesha festival approaching (August 27), markets across Bengaluru are witnessing a sharp rise in the prices of flowers and fruits. Traders say the surge is a result of high festive demand combined with erratic supply in recent weeks, a trend that has now become routine during major celebrations in the city.

On Sunday, jasmine touched Rs 3,800 per kg and as much as Rs 40 for just 10 grams, one of the highest prices seen this season. Tube roses, which were selling at Rs 120–Rs 150 per kg in wholesale markets, including KR Marker, cost as much as Rs 400 per kg in retail outlets across Basavanagudi and Jayanagar.

"Compared to Varamahalakshmi or Dasara, these prices are still on the lower side, but for consumers, the pinch is real," said Manjunath, member, Flower Merchants' Association.

COSTLY SHOPPING BAG

Item/kg	Current Price	Old price
Jasmine	₹3,800	₹2,000
Tuberose	₹400	₹180-200
Apple	₹260	₹180-200
Banana	₹160	₹90-110
Coconut	₹60-70	₹45-50

It is not just flowers. Fruits, too, have become significantly costlier. Yelakki bananas are retailing at Rs 160 a kg, oranges at Rs 200, and apples at Rs 240-260, each priced at least Rs 30–Rs 40 more than earlier this week. Coconuts and other bananas, essential for puja rituals, are also dearer by at least Rs 40 per piece.

Vendors at KR Market and Malleswaram blamed the price surge on reduced arrivals from neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, where heavy rains have disrupted transport and affected flower and fruit supplies. "Truckloads of flowers usually come in daily, but the last few weeks have seen smaller quantities reaching Bengaluru. When supply tightens and demand peaks before festivals, rates shoot up," added Mutthu M, a wholesale trader at KR Market.

The rise in fruit prices, according to the vendors, is also linked to both transport bottlenecks and higher procurement costs at mandis outside Karnataka. Retailers say they are passing on these costs to consumers, leaving little room to absorb the hikes.

Families shopping for the festival on Sunday said they were cutting down quantities or opting for cheaper substitutes, with many also comparing prices of the items on online grocery apps.

Airtel server down, services hit for 6 hrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TELECOM major Airtel faced a major service disruption on Sunday, leaving thousands of customers across Karnataka, specifically the state capital, unable to make calls or access the internet for up to six hours. The outage, which affected prepaid, postpaid and broadband users alike, sparked a wave of complaints, with many taking to social media.

Outage tracking platform Downdetector recorded a spike in reports beginning around 10.44 am and peaking at 12.15 pm, when over 7,100 users flagged connectivity issues. Subscribers reported weak signals and, in some places, a complete blackout. This marks the company's second major service failure in less than a week. On August 19, more than 3,500 users had reported similar problems in Delhi NCR.

Downdetector data showed that 52 per cent of complainants received a "No Signal" message, with 31 per cent unable to use mobile data. Apart from Karnataka, users from Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata also reported disruptions while accessing the internet and making calls, Downdetector reported.

Airtel, responding to users on X, attributed the disruption to "temporary connectivity issues" and assured that services would be restored within an hour.

Reports of outages started declining after 1 pm, suggesting partial recovery. However, by 4 pm, more than 150 users were still flagging disruptions, indicating that the problem persisted in pockets.

Many customers said the problem lasted much longer than six hours. "Airtel postpaid has been down for over six hours — no calls, no internet. Zero accountability and you can't even reach customer care. @TRAI should at least take action. Looks like @airtelindia has taken citizens for a ride," a user posted on X.

"Is anyone facing issues with Airtel Wifi or Airtel calling? Since morning, I didn't get internet and their customer service guys are also not answering the calls. @Airtel_Presence @airtelIndia," another user with X handle, Naneyidupakka, wrote.

Bike taxi drivers seek free access to app platforms

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Bike Taxi Welfare Association urged ride-hailing platforms to provide them free access to app technology, saying it is their only means to connect with passengers, comply with regulations, and resume livelihoods amid ongoing uncertainty over services in the state.

In a letter to Uber, Ola, and Rapido, association president Adi Narayan said, "After weeks without work, even as the HC directed the state not to take coercive action against bike taxi drivers, there is now a threat of action against the platforms themselves. This puts not just the drivers, but our entire support structure, at serious risk."

He said, "For lakhs of us, your platform is our only way to connect with customers, follow regulations, and maintain a stable income." The letter stated, "Our drivers, many of whom have devoted years to serving commuters and depend solely on the app ecosystem, are reaching out in desperation — asking that bike taxi services resume in Karnataka. We urge platform providers, policymakers, and the public to recognise that without you, we have nowhere else to turn."

BBMP software brings parastatal agencies under single home page to fix potholes

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@ Bengaluru

AFTER directions from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief commissioner on addressing the pothole issue across the city, and the IT corridor in particular, the BBMP Road Infrastructure Department has come up with in-house software that brings officials and other parastatal agencies under a single home page for monitoring and fixing potholes.

The move comes after the Bengaluru Traffic Police filed a report identifying over 3,000 potholes across Bengaluru and their impact on the safety of motorists and smooth traffic. From the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Public Works Department (PWD) and Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd (KRDCL), every agency will come on a single home page aiming at fixing, monitoring and reporting potholes.

BBMP Road Infrastructure Department Chief Engineer Raghavendra Prasad, who is the brain behind the move, said, "The parastatal agencies, which dig roads for their service and fix them back, will have to share the photo of work completion along with the location details. The claims will be verified by BBMP at the central office, just by a single click."

Civic workers fix a pothole-riddled stretch of road at an underpass in Bengaluru

POTHOLES IN BBMP'S 8 ZONES

Bommanahalli	504
Dasarahalli	156
East	780
Mahadevapura	628
RR Nagar	449
South	573
West	486
Yelahanka	294

In all, 1,112 (29%) potholes, out of 3,870, have been fixed by various agencies as on August 24, and the remaining will be fixed soon, he said.

Engineers of other agencies have been directed to ensure that aggregators fix road patches and potholes under their ambit as per the Indian Road Congress guidelines.

A senior engineer said that while road infrastructure department has to fix 2,498 potholes, the zonal offices have a target of 959. Officials said that on the website, the potholes that have been fixed will be shown in green, while the ones that have to be fixed will be in yellow colour.

K'taka group marks 61 years of AA in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Area Committee 1 of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) marked 61 years of service in Bengaluru, celebrating decades of support for individuals battling alcoholism. Over 1,000 recovering alcoholics and their families gathered for the event, which was attended by Shantappa, retired judge of the Central Administrative Tribunal, and Additional Director General of Police, Arun Chakravarthy.

Chakravarthy, who also serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Alcoholics Anonymous India, spoke about his two-decade association with AA. "I realised many constables were frequently absent from duty without convincing reasons. On speaking with their families, we discovered that alcoholism was the cause. They would leave home in uniform, but spend the day drinking," he recalled.

"We used to treat absenteeism as indiscipline. But repeated absence was not normal. I understood alcoholism is not a moral failing, it is a disease. The WHO has clinically defined it as such," he said.

"There was a time when I was ready to give up everything for alcohol, even my family and my life. I was prepared to die a meaningless death. But by grace, I walked into a room where people taught me that I could live differently. Today, I don't just want to live, I want to die a meaningful death, sober, free, and at peace," shared one member, who has been sober for 12 years straight.

"In recovery, support is not expressed by saying that drinking will be stopped from next month, or that it will be limited to weekends. Instead, support is expressed simply by the decision that drinking will not to be done today. One day at a time, that commitment is kept, and that is how strength is shared," added Chakravarthy.

He emphasised the need to treat alcoholism with compassion rather than stigma. "Alcoholism is a disease. Let's understand it as a disease and treat it like one. Labelling people as drunkards doesn't help. They need support, not punishment," he stressed. AA currently runs nearly 120 meetings across Bengaluru, Tumkuru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur, offering recovery through peer support. For assistance, one can call the AA Bengaluru helpline at 9845587507 or visit aabengaluru.org

EXPRESS READ

PES University holds orientation for 1st-year BTech, BArch batches

BENGALURU: The inauguration and orientation of the first-year classes for the BTech and BArch programmes of PES University was held on Sunday at its premises. The event was inaugurated by Prof Jawahar Doreswamy, Chancellor, PES University; in the presence of Prof Ajoy Kumar, Chief Operating Officer; J Suryaprasad, Vice Chancellor; and KS Sridhar, Registrar. Prof Ajoy in his inaugural address stated that PES is committed to quality education. Hard work and perseverance are the most important qualities that the student must embrace to go forward in life. Prof Ajoy emphasised on focusing on fundamentals and educating oneself with concepts rather than depending on AI or Google as the key to achieving success. He said that there is no one turning point in life, it is a life long journey of learning. Prof Jawahar Doreswamy held an orientation session for all first-year students and parents, highlighting the important principles, practices of the university that the students need to follow to become successful.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25TH August: The whole solar system is in a state of excitement as a series of powerful planets form vibrant celestial relationships. But what exactly is the outcome? Most astrologers are able to predict uncertainty: that's easy! However, when we look at world affairs, it's extremely difficult to be more precise. Anything could happen!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Today it's Uranus, that most distant and surprising of celestial bodies, which gives you the chance to skip the normal preliminaries in putting your ambitions into effect. Cash questions will preoccupy you later on, perhaps with unexpected results.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's fair to say that your planetary patterns are favourable, all the more so if your inclination is generally inspired, visionary even. The closer you come to practical responsibilities, the greater the need for additional care and caution.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Partners can't read your mind, so tell them what you think. If your aims are professional, and if you're planning a spot of personal promotion, you could do worse than set your sights on the next few days. You may just receive a windfall, even if only on a modest scale.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Moon is normally such a sympathetic planet, but today it leaves you in no doubt that it is other people who require your loving care and sympathy. Reach out and offer the hand of support to those in need. They will pay you back in their own way - when they can.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There's no escape from busy planetary pictures and hence no way to avoid your responsibilities. The best course may be to get as much achieved as you possibly can, in order to give yourself more scope for relaxation tomorrow and the day after. Have a break. Put your feet up!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may see creative self-expression as a voluntary activity, but the planets don't agree. Today, in so many little ways, you may be compelled to be an individual and be true to your own utterly unique talents. Employers please note! And family members please take care!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
There seems little doubt that home and family affairs will dominate your thoughts and feelings today. Even if you are determined to give the highest priority to work, it will be deep and fundamental issues which demand your attention, including your domestic relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Some celestial indications suggest that you may be called away from home, possibly on account of work or a similar responsibility. In any event, the main goal is to communicate clearly and make yourself properly understood. Someone else may owe you an apology, but don't hold your breath!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Business affairs will occupy your attention. Your financial stars are looking considerably less complex than this time last year, and today you may cut across a whole series of irrelevant hangovers like the proverbial hot knife through butter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The ball is in your court. Tackle private affairs and deal with professional activities only if you feel a deep personal motivation. Romantic encounters and sentimental journeys are desirable, if only because the results may be much more delightful than expected.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Any feelings of uncertainty or confusion should be short-lived, and by late tomorrow you could be back in the driving seat. In the meantime, remember that you're now into a fantastically productive long-term cycle. The world will judge you by your deeds rather than your words.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Sometimes you just have to pay more attention to your own needs. After a long period of social responsibility, you may begin to streamline your personal commitments. If you're typical of your sign, your inclination is to withdraw from a particular public arena.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

6		3		9		1		4
	4					6		
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		9	3		1			
	7			2			3	
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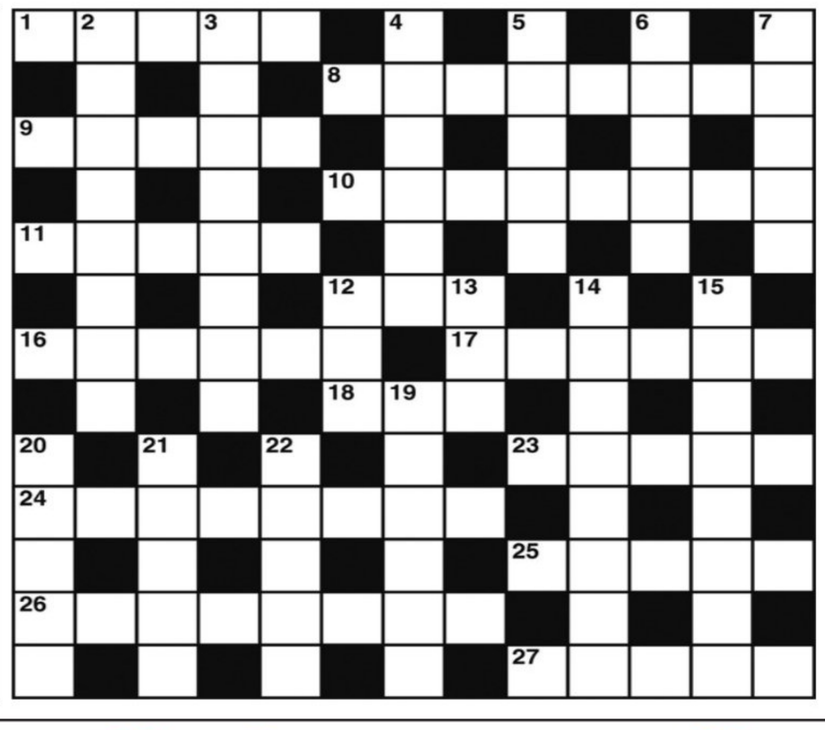
		7					6	
8		4		5		3		9

5	4	1	6	9	3	7	2	8
3	7	8	2	1	5	4	9	6
9	2	6	8	4	7	3	1	5
2	5	3	7	8	4	9	6	1
6	8	4	9	2	1	5	3	7
7	1	9	5	3	6	8	4	2
1	9	5	3	7	2	6	8	4
8	6	2	4	5	9	1	7	3
4	3	7	1	6	8	2	5	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Mackerel bait (5)
8 The sailor's fears are disguised (8)
9 Snappy mongrel (5)
10 Disturbance that may have Paul upset (8)
11 Disturb with sound arguments (5)
12 Cheek by jowl (3)
16 Girl carries on in Juliet's place (6)
17 Gives some people your address? (6)
18 Change colour and pass away as reported (3)
23 A snake has a new tail put on (5)
24 Poet writes new sonnet about New York (8)
25 Vision of the armed revolutionary (5)
26 Continued to be left behind (8)
27 Can turn into American fighting formations (5)

DOWN

2 Forgave and cut the fellow in (8)
3 His opinion is sure to be of some value (8)
4 Quietly settled in Indian city or old Greek shrine (6)
5 With a frequency of ten put together (5)
6 Sort of boat you need money for (5)
7 Note the record is amusing (5)
12 Young man may drop out from illness (3)
13 He produced poems without writing (3)
14 Duck and orange? (8)
15 Appropriate to a Mediterranean land? (8)
19 The old-fashioned sign for old-fashioned farmers (6)
20 Begin street painting (5)
21 The other side from the Yemen (5)
22 Cyril's odd ode (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Respecting, 6 Comb, 10 Sorts, 11 Oppressor, 12 Twilight, 13 Risks, 15 Hearses, 17 Curable, 19 Pelican, 21 Deposit, 22 Realm, 24 Gin rummy, 27 Cigarette, 28 Enter, 29 Sett, 30 Tennis club.

Down: 1 Rest, 2 Screwball, 3 Easel, 4 Troughs, 5 Nepotic, 7 Oasis, 8 Birds' nests, 9 Teardrop, 14 Shipwrecks, 16 Sycamore, 18 Base metal, 20 Nightie, 21 Dungeon, 23 Angst, 25 Users, 26 Crib.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

VCICI

CNBHE

LDRALO

TGRETU

This should warn us if anyone or anything comes around.
Great! I feel safer already.
THEY THOUGHT INSTALLING NEW MOTION-ACTIVATED LIGHTS OUTSIDE THEIR HOME WAS A ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DIGIT GUARD NOGGIN GLOBAL
Answer: The detective took charge at the police barbecue because he was — GOOD AT GRILLING

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

03 BENGALURU | MONDAY 25.08.2025 | newindianexpress.com

The police in Shivamogga have arrested a man from Mysuru on charges of allegedly posing as the personal assistant of School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and cheating people with false promises of government jobs and transfers. The police said the accused, Raghunath (36), had for the last six months introduced himself as the minister's PA and collected money from people

K-tech
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY 2020
"Powering India's Digital Leadership"
43.67% of India's total software exports are from Karnataka
12+ Incentives
Key Incentives:
Mega Projects / Enterprises: Customized incentive packages on a case-to-case basis
R&D Support: Matching grants up to 33% of project R&D cost
IT Hubs/Clusters: Financial assistance up to 20% of fixed infrastructure investment
itcell@karnataka.gov.in
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Dept. of E, IT & Bt
STARTUP KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA DATA CENTRE POLICY 2022
"Destination of Choice for Futuristic Data Centres"
Targeting ₹10,000+ Crores of domestic and foreign investments
8+ Incentives
Key Incentives:
10% Land Subsidy on purchase/lease of land
One-time 7% Capital Subsidy on Value of Fixed Assets
Green Power Tariff Reimbursement – For data centres sourcing above 50% renewable energy
itcell@karnataka.gov.in

50% TRAFFIC FINE REBATE WILL MAKE ROADS UNSAFE: EXPERTS

'Govt sending out wrong signal to violators to wait for discounts'

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government's recent decision to offer a 50% discount on traffic e-challan fines has sparked a debate. While one section has hailed the move, a few opine that the government is making roads unsafe by offering such a rebate. Experts feel that the government is sending out a message to violators to "wait for discounts" instead of implementing strict measures to ensure road safety. This is not the first time that the State Government is offering such a discount. In 2023, the government had announced such concessions on two occasions.

Speaking to *TNIE*, traffic expert Prof MN Shreehari said the 50% rebate is a "wrong signal" from the government. "Instead of collecting fines, the government is giving offers to violators, which is unlawful. The law clearly states that anyone who violates the law should be penalised, not offered discounts. Such measures will only encourage more violations and reduce the fear of law and rules. Instead of offering discounts, the government should focus on educating violators about road safety," he said, adding that by offering a blanket discount, the government risks diluting the deterrent effect of fines, which are meant to discourage reckless driving and ensure road safety. "Motorists may assume that penalties can always be negotiated later, encouraging repeated violations. Meanwhile, others who paid their fines promptly at full rates may feel penalised for their compliance," he said.

A senior traffic police officer told *TNIE* that while the move may not be good in the long run, it does help many citizens, especially those struggling with accumulated fines, by providing financial relief. "Traffic rules must be followed for one's own safety. With such offers, many delivery personnel, auto-rickshaw drivers, and cab drivers-who are often in a hurry for work-are among the most frequent violators. They break rules, pay only 50% of the fine, and then repeat the offence. These violations sometimes lead to injuries and fatalities for other road users and pedestrians. Violations such as signal jumping, riding without helmets, or driving without seat belts are not minor lapses but serious safety risks. People may view them simply as traffic violations, but in reality, they are essential safety measures that protect lives," he said.

Another officer said that the government must ensure this remains a one-time measure to recover dues, not a recurring practice. "Otherwise, the message to motorists may shift from 'follow the rules' to 'wait for the next discount'," the officer said. While the scheme serves as a short-term revenue boost and helps reduce administrative backlog, its long-term impact on traffic behaviour is questionable. If such concessions become frequent, they may normalise violations rather than curb them," he said.

ECO-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL

Children hold Ganesha made of clay at an event organised by Parisara Ganapa in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

MOTHER SLITS THROAT OF NEWBORN IN SHIVAMOGGA, ARRESTED

SHIVAMOGGA: The investigation into the case of the murder of a newborn baby boy at McGann Teaching District Hospital in Shivamogga has recently revealed shocking facts that the woman stole a surgical blade and delivered the baby herself inside the washroom before slitting the baby's throat. The accused Shaila, who is from Thimlapura of Honnalli taluk, has been arrested. The accused had come to the hospital as an attendant to her relative, a patient, who delivered a baby, sources said. Later, her relative was shifted to the operative ward. Shaila, who already had two children had undergone birth control surgery four years back but was still pregnant. But she hid the fact from her family. But on August 16, she developed labour pain while she was with her relative in the hospital post-operative ward. Police said that Shaila was inside the washroom for 45 minutes. In the washroom, she delivered the baby herself. The baby was a fully developed one; she couldn't flush the baby down the toilet. She slit the throat of the baby and dumped it in the flush tank of the washroom. **ENS**

11-year-old boy dies after BMTC bus runs over him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 11-year-old boy died after a BMTC bus ran over him near SJP Road under Halsuru Gate police station limits at around 6.40 pm on Sunday. The victim, Shabarish, was a resident of GM Palya. This is fifth accident involving a BMTC bus in the last two weeks.

According to the police, Shabarish was riding pillion with his uncle and aunty on a two-wheeler when a BMTC bus heading towards Town Hall from Market Road on SJP Road hit the two-wheeler. Shabarish fell, and the rear wheel of the bus ran over him, killing him on the spot, while his uncle and aunty sustained minor injuries.

The jurisdictional Halsuru Gate Traffic Police have registered a case, and detained the bus driver and seized the bus.

Shabarish's family members and other residents staged a protest outside the Halsuru Gate traffic police station demanding justice.

HUSBAND HURT

Woman falls off flyover in hit-and-run accident, dies

ENS@ Bengaluru

TWO people, including a woman, died in separate hit-and-run accidents in the city on Sunday morning.

A 31-year-old woman died after a speeding car on the wrong side rammed into a two-wheeler, causing her to fall from the Bachahalli Gate flyover under the Devanahalli traffic police station limits at 12.30 am on Sunday. The woman, Nethravathi, was a homemaker. Her husband, Shivu, a labourer, sustained minor injuries. The couple was residents of Banaswadi and have two children.

The police said the couple were heading to Chikkaballapura on their two-wheeler to meet Nethravathi's mother, who had just been discharged from the hospital after eye surgery, and also to pick up their children staying at their grandmother's house. While riding near Bachahalli Gate flyover, a speeding car hit their scooter, and Nethravathi was thrown off the flyover, about 20 feet down, resulting in severe head injuries. She died on the spot, while her husband sustained minor injuries after falling to the left side of the bike. The car driver fled the scene, the police said.

In another hit-and-run accident, a 22-year-old security guard from Bihar died and a bike taxi rider was injured after a speeding truck hit the rear of their two-wheeler. The incident occurred near Krishnananda Nagar Junction under Rajarajeshwari Nagar Traffic Police Station limits at 2 am on Sunday.

The police said Sanjiv Kumar, a resident of Peenya, had finished his work and booked a bike taxi to reach home. Around 2 am, near Krishnananda Nagar Junction, a speeding truck rammed into the scooter from behind, causing Kumar to fall on the road. The truck ran over him, killing him on the spot. The driver fled the scene. The bike taxi rider sustained injuries to his legs.

Congress MLA remanded in ED custody till Aug 28

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE City Civil and Sessions Court on Sunday remanded Chitradurga Congress MLA **KC Veerendra** in the custody of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) till August 28.

Veerendra was arrested in Gangtok, Sikkim, on Saturday by the ED in connection with alleged online and offline betting and money laundering activities. He was produced before a local judicial magistrate there for a transit remand and was brought to Bengaluru by flight late at night. Tight security arrangements were made at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport.

Before being produced at the judge's residence in Koramangala in Bengaluru, Veerendra was taken for a medical examination at Bowring and Lady Curzon hospital. The ED sought 14 days of custody, but the court granted custody till August 28.

Earlier, ED had carried out searches at 31 locations linked to Veerendra, including six in Chitradurga district, 10 in Bengaluru, eight in Goa, three in Jodhpur, two in Mumbai, and one each in Hubballi and Gangtok, for two days. During the raids, officials seized about Rs 1 crore worth of foreign currency, gold ornaments valued at Rs 6 crore, 10 kg of silver articles, Rs 12 crore in cash, and four vehicles, all under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The search revealed that the accused was running several online betting sites. In addition, 17 bank accounts and two bank lockers were frozen. Several property-related documents belonging to Veerendra's brother, KC Nagaraj, and his son, Prithvi N Raj, were also seized.

4 cops suspended after accused dies in station

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOUR police personnel attached to MK Doddi police station in Bengaluru South district (Ramanagara) were suspended on charges of dereliction of duty and negligence after a habitual offender ended his life in the station washroom on August 20.

The suspended police personnel are Assistant Sub-Inspector Nagaraju and Constables Pratap, Lakshmi Narayana, and Somanatha, who were on duty when the accused Ramesh, was found hanging in the station washroom using his dhoti. Ramesh, a native of Mandya along with two associates, including his son, had been arrested on charges of stealing the donation box of a temple in Channapatna.

Ramesh's family alleged that he was beaten to death and later hanged to make it appear as suicide. The police, however, maintained that it was a case of suicide and denied any foul play.

The police said the suspended personnel were on duty at the time of the incident and failed in their responsibility to ensure the security of the accused in custody. The case has been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has issued Legal Notice dated 22.08.2025, terminating the Joint Development Agreement dated 24.02.2012 (executed on 20.06.2013) executed between our clients and **M/s. SVS properties India Private limited**, A company having its registered office at No.216/13, Suraj towers, 4th floor, 27th Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 0011, Represented by its managing director, in Document No. YAN-1-02908-2013-14, CD No. YAND489, registered in the office of sub registrar, Gandhinagara (Yelahanka) for the purpose of developing the lands in residentially converted land bearing Survey No. 53 measuring 10 acres 27 guntas and Survey No. 54/2 measuring 2 acres 01 guntas situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore (morefully described in the schedule hereunder as Item No. 1 & 2 and hereinafter collectively referred to as the **Schedule Property**).

It is also notified that the Registered Power of Attorney dated 20.06.2013, in Document No. YAN-4-00083-2013-14, in CD No. YAND489, before the sub-registrar Gandhinagara (Yelahanka) has been revoked on the death of the Mr. Sudheer Babu who was authorised to represent our clients pursuant to the Joint Development Agreement dated 24.02.2012 (executed on 20.06.2013).

Notice is given to the general public not to deal with the Schedule Property and if dealt is at your own risk.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of converted undeveloped land bearing Survey No. 53 measuring 10 acres 27 guntas, situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, converted vide conversion Order No. ALN(NAY)SR 160/2009-10 dated 29.07.2010 and bounded by: East by: Land bearing Sy.No.52; West by: J. B Kaval Village Boundary Sy.No.75; North by: Land in Sy.No.54/2; South by: J. B Kaval Village Boundary Sy.No.64/1.

Item No. 2 : All that piece and parcel of converted undeveloped land property bearing Sy. No. 54/2 measuring 2 acres 01 guntas, situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, converted vide conversion Order No. ALN(NAY)SR 138/2009-10 dated 29.07.2010 and bounded by: East by: Land in same Sy.No.54/2 of Balaji Education Trust and lake; West by: Land of Vajramuniyappa; North by: Sy.No.54/2; South by: Land of Bayana and others;

Gaurav G K & Anusha Nandish, Advocates, Office at "Vinaya", No. 51, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560020.
Mobile : 9743732830 / 9902362888
Email : agadvocateoffice@gmail.com
BENGALURU, DATE: 22.08.2025

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.: 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tenders through MSTC Portal: -

1. MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT PLANT HOSPITAL AND CSR SERVICE AT NEARBY VILLAGES, BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/24/25-26/ET/38 [MGMT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 013/SAL/PUR/2025-26; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹336.00 LAKH]
2. RENOVATION OF C-TYPE QUARTERS (NEW & OLD) AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/23/25-26/ET/37 [RENOVATION OF C-TYPE QUARTERS]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 011/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2025-26; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹197.74 LAKH]

Last date of tender submission – **25.09.2025 by 11:00 Hrs.** For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com**. Tender details are also available at our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on the above websites.

Senior General Manager

Kerala Maritime Board
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5)
1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building Pipinmoodu,
Sasthamangalam, PIN: 695010

TENDER NOTICE

RFP for Development of 2.5 Acres of Prime Land at South Beach, Kozhikode, Kerala

The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites a tender for the **Development of 2.5 Acres of Prime Land at South Beach, Kozhikode** [Tender ID: **HOKMB-TVM/296/2024-C5]** in Public Private Partnership **(PPP)** mode. The detailed tender document can be downloaded from Government of Kerala's e-procurement portal **(www.etenders.kerala.gov.in).**

Proposals must be submitted on or before **10/10/2025, 06:55 PM.** For further information contact us on **0471-2910040 / 9544410029** or email us to **kmb.kerala@gmail.com.**

For updates visit: **www.kmb.kerala.gov.in**

Sd/-
D3/631/2025/I&PRD
CEO

Tyger Capital Pvt Ltd.
Registered Office : Adani House, 56, Shrimali Society, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad 380 009, Gujarat, India
Corporate Office : 1004/5, 10th Floor, C-Wing, One BKC, C-66, G- Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051. Maharashtra, India,
CIN: U65990GJ2016PTC093692, **Website :** www.Tygercapital.in

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned Borrowers, Co-borrower(s) / Guarantor have availed loan/s facility(ies) have availed loan/s facility(ies) from **Tyger Capital Pvt Ltd.** (formerly Known as M/s. Adani Capital Pvt Ltd vide Certificate of Incorporation dated 6th June 2024, issued by the Office of the Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, herein after refer to 'TCPL') by mortgaging your immovable properties (Securities). Consequent to your defaults your loans were classified as non-performing assets. **Tyger Capital Pvt Ltd** for the recovery of the outstanding dues, issued demand notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Name Of The Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Essel Loan Account No/ Old Loan Account No.	Mortgage Property Address	Demand Notice Date / O/s Amount / O/s Date
S MANJUNATH P K Indra 111MSM001181144	All that piece and parcel of the property admeasuring an extent of 1826.96 Sq.Ft. comprised in property No(s) 6, bearing PID No. 152200516183020140, situated in Chikkahomma Village, within the Sub-Registration District of Kuderu bounded on the East-Site of J Venkatesh, West-Road, North-House of Govindegowda, South-Site of J Venkatesh	16-Aug-25 / Rs.2137048/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Forty Eight Only) As On Date : 14.08.2025

You the Borrower/s and Co-borrowers/Guarantor are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned herein above in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above-mentioned securities. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act by virtue of which you are at liberty to redeem the secured asset within period stipulated in the aforesaid provision. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

Place : KARNATAKA
Date : 25.08.2025

For Tyger Capital Pvt Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD
GLOBAL EXPRESS
Expert opinions | In-depth analysis
Comprehensive coverage

IS LOVE BLOOMING BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA?
Scan to watch

DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO STAY UPDATED

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **16-05-2025** followed by Paper Publication Dated **18-06-2025** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) Mr. Khadir Pasha, S/o. Riyaz Pasha, No.2892, Main Road, 3 rd Cross, Mothi Nagara, Ramanagara - 562159. No.2) Mrs. Farheen Kouser, W/o. Khadir Pasha, No.2892, Main Road, 3 rd Cross, Mothi Nagara, Ramanagara - 562159** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.12,18,774/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Four only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **15-05-2025** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 20th day of August 2025.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.11,05,578/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Five Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Eight only)** and interest thereon from **18-08-2025** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Khadir Pasha, S/o. Riyaz Pasha)

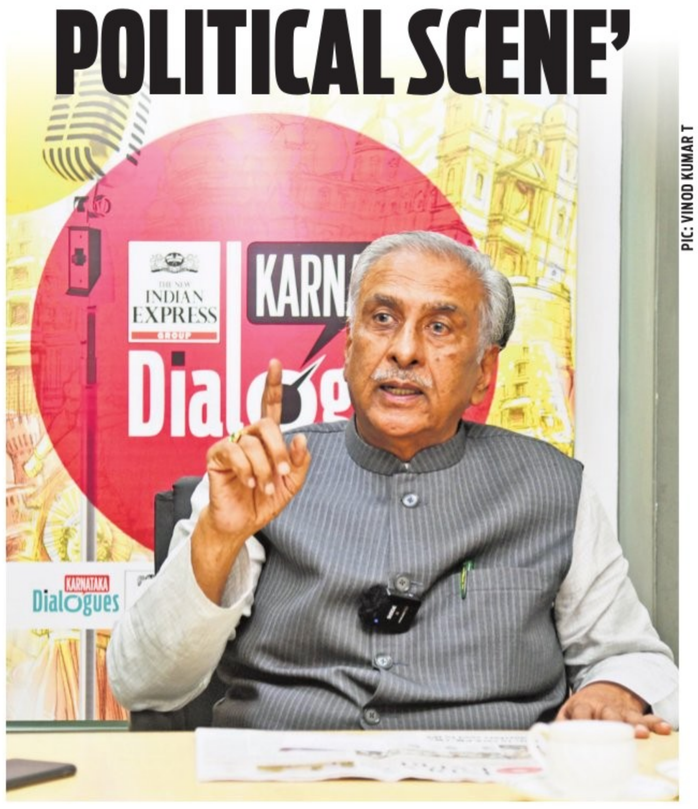
Commercial-Cum-Residential Property bearing Municipal Khatha No.165/2890. Measuring : East to West 63.6 Feet, North to South 33.6 Feet. Totally 2,127.25 sq. ft. Situated at Mothi Nagar Mohalla, Ward No.16, Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District. Bounded on : East : Conservancy, West : Municipal Road, North : Road, South : Khadir Pasha's other Property.

Place : Ramanagara, Date : 20-08-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar hit out at BJP over the Dharmasthala case. "BJP should shut up rather than try to exploit it politically. BJP is suffering from factionalism and is raking up such issues. The party is trying to mask its failures. We will present the truth before the people," he said

'MONEY DOMINATES POLITICAL SCENE'



PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS Dialogues

TEAM TNIE

BASAVARAJ S Horatti, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, recently emerged as the longest-serving legislator, winning from the same constituency without a break, in the country. For 45 years, he has been elected an MLC for eight successive terms. In an interaction with *TNIE,* he shares his views on various aspects, including the degeneration of politics, measures to improve schools, two-language policy and others. Excerpts ...

What inspired you to come to politics?
I started my career as a high school teacher in 1975 in Hubballi. I spent five years there, which was filled with teachers being harassed by the school management and the government. Back then, there was no job security. No financial compensation would be offered to the family of any teacher who died during service. On November 13, 1976, some like-minded people formed the Karnataka Secondary School Employees' Association, incorporating all strata of school employees. The organisation fought for our rights.

What was it like back then?
In the private education sector, 10-25% of an employee's salary would have to [illegally] go to the management in cash. We decided against it. Teachers were villainised and were accused of playing petty politics. We called a meeting and gathered around 1,200 teachers to elect a proper representative for our cause as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). No one showed any eagerness, and then I was considered. Within moments, they announced my name as their representative unanimously. I agreed without hesitation.

How did your family take the news?
When my mother came to know, she made a trunk call to tell me, "If you contest the election, I will hang myself". I immediately took a bus to my village. About 25 people were anxiously waiting at the bus-stand to receive me, as if I was a criminal. At the house, I found around 50 people crying. I thought my mother had passed away. Afterwards, she convinced me to not contest the MLC election.

How did teachers take it?
I came back to Hubballi and told them that I couldn't contest. They told me that since the decision had been made public, backtracking on it would mean dissolution of the association itself. They said I should contest.

How did the elections go?
It was the first time in Karnataka's history that a working teacher was contesting. There was a rule that any private employee seeking to contest would have to take prior permission from the management. I was denied permission by the management, but I was told to contest anyway. I later was dismissed as a teacher. So there was no issue anymore. After I won the election, I was reinstated again as a teacher; that was in 1981. I began my career as both a teacher and an MLC.

When you look back, what differences do you see between MLCs back then and now?
In the past, the Legislative Council was marked by commitment and seriousness, with debates running from morning to late night. Leaders like Venkataraman and AK Subbaiah fought passionately, often speaking for hours on labour and social issues. Today, however, money dominates, even in teachers' constituencies; votes are bought. Earlier, nominated members like H Narasimha urged us to think beyond teachers and address students' concerns, sparking debates on education quality, teacher-student ratios, and declining standards in government schools. The Council once worked with sincerity, now even crucial bills are delayed.

There is a shortage of teachers in government schools. Recently in the Assembly, the honorarium for guest teachers was discussed. How do you see this?
Karnataka has nearly 29,000 vacant teacher posts, yet guest teachers are hired at Rs 12,000 instead of Rs 48,000 for regular staff, with the Finance Department calling this a saving. Teachers also face heavy non-teaching burdens, including mid-day meal reporting, deputation for elections and surveys. I have urged the CM to appoint separate staff for meals and suggested that 10% of employees from other departments share duties so teachers can focus on teaching. While legislation in this matter is not possible, a rule can be made.

In your experience, do you think the credibility of today's politician has eroded?
Money for votes has become common, even in teachers' constituencies. Earlier, members were committed; today, only 5–10% remain sincere while the rest succumb to money and politics.

Four seats are vacant in the Council and is the government not filling those seats?
I wrote to the CM and DCM that seats are reserved for achievers in the field of cinema, media, sports and education. My letter reached the New Delhi (Congress) high command. After this session, maybe they will announce four names. Appointments may still bypass rules, though the Governor has power to reject ineligible nominations, as done earlier.

In your long political journey, did you ever feel like contesting MLA elections?
Yes. In 1985, when Ramakrishna Hegde was chief minister, he gave me a 'B' form and asked me to contest from Dharwad city. At that time, around 3,000 teachers supported me. But there was heavy opposition too. Then, Hegde asked me, "Do you really want this?" and I gave it ('B' form) back to him.

Have you ever felt disappointed and felt that you should have been made a minister?
I became a minister twice, but it did not happen again. Naturally, I felt disappointed when governments changed. As minister for science and technology, we ensured that every district had one science centre and four divisional science centres. Even today, all of them are functioning. During my 10 months as rural development and panchayat raj Minister, we started an initiative called "Gram Soudha to Vidhana Soudha", under which gram panchayat chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members were invited to Vidhana Soudha once every two months. In one such meeting, a panchayat member from Mangaluru raised the issue that panchayats were not receiving the allocated funds directly, as the money first went to the zilla and taluk panchayats and only later reached the gram panchayat. On the same day, we announced that funds should be sent directly to gram panchayats. Even today, funds continue to go directly to them.

You were also an education minister. What are the changes that were introduced during your tenure?
As minister for primary and secondary education, I appointed 48,313 teachers and increased the department's budget. At that time, there was no shortage of teachers. The mid-day meal scheme, which was earlier restricted to primary schools, was extended to high schools, including aided schools. We also reformed the teacher transfer system. Earlier, teachers with good merit were appointed to cities, while others were sent to villages. We introduced a zoning system: City limits were classified as Zone A and areas 15 km away from the city were Zone B, and further areas were Zone C. Even gold medalists had to first serve in Zone C, then Zone B, and only later in Zone A. This system is still in place, and nine other states have adopted it.

Why are exam results in Kalyana-Karnataka still poor?
First, we must provide teachers, especially meritorious teachers, and ensure a good atmosphere for learning. Though committees exist in respective departments, no one really knows where the funds are going. Elected representatives must take responsibility to develop schools and other related matters.

There is a two-language policy debate across the country. What is your opinion?
I had written to the chief minister, recommending a three-language policy in the state. In that detailed three-page letter, I explained that many MPs who attend Parliament do not know Hindi, they just sit quietly and return. I insisted that Karnataka should continue with the three-language policy, which is good.

Don't you think the Upper House has become a rehabilitation centre for those who keep changing parties?
The system is not correct. Those who lose elections are getting nominated. Also, followers of leaders are getting nominated. Such nominated MLCs will not know anything.

Have you faced any kind of moral dilemma in your tenure?
Yes, I have faced plenty. Sometimes I had to make extremely tough decisions. I am the custodian of the House. I go according to rules, 99%. A Bill was tabled in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, I tried to convince everybody to pass it but nobody listened. I was a bit embarrassed. When the Bill fails in the Council, it goes back to the Assembly, where they might want to abolish the Council itself. Kagodu Thimmappa, Vatal Nagaraj and others wanted to abolish the Council.

A few states have only one House. What is your opinion?
There are 75 MLCs and 225 MLAs. The question hour is the same for both Houses. In the Council, MLCs are experienced, intelligent and knowledgeable in their respective fields. The Upper House in Tamil Nadu was abolished. Andhra Pradesh abolished it, but started again. If Councils are abolished, then why should we have Rajya Sabha? In my opinion, there should be Councils. A few years ago, when somebody wanted to contest MLA elections, his background and capability was checked. But today, only the rich get the ticket. Such MLAs don't even bother. They come to Bengaluru, do real estate business and make enough money. When this is the situation, it is good to have the Council, where serious discussions take place about various issues.

How has the bureaucracy changed over the years?
Even officers have changed. In my service, I have seen 108 IAS officers who are now retired. Earlier, officers just went by the rule book. They did not bother considering even if the chief minister wanted something done that was against the rule. Today, officers just go with the flow.

The Central Government wants to remove the PM, CM, ministers if they are arrested for 30 days. What is your opinion?
It is correct. How will you be a role model if you have gone to jail? If there is such a law, leaders will be extremely careful. There are examples of innocent chief ministers going to jail. If we look at both sides, it looks like 70% is correct while the remaining 30% is not correct. However, it is not easy to implement.

What is your message to youngsters who want to join politics?
Youngsters easily get influenced by the materialistic world. The Speaker and I attended a conference and want to open a college exclusively for political purposes. After SSLC, those interested in joining politics will be trained. We have laid an outline and any youngster joining politics will have to come through the college. I have seen 1,200-plus MLAs in my service and of whom, only two survive purely on pension, while for the rest, pension does not matter.

DHARMASTHALA CASE

SIT starts collecting info on complainant, visits Mandya, TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THE Special Investigation Team(SIT) investigating the Dharmasthala mass burial allegations case has started gathering crucial information related to the complainant now named as accused for fraud and fabricated evidence.

A team of SIT officials has gone to Mandya and Tamil Nadu and are collecting details from his family members and friends. The witness-complainant, now named as accused, is found to have resided in a village in Mandya and also in Tamil Nadu along with his family.

Sameer appears for questioning

YouTuber Sameer MD appeared for questioning at Belthangady police station on Sunday after he was booked for false claims in his video. Earlier, the Dharmasthala police had issued an arrest warrant against Sameer for fake news and revealing sensitive details of the witness-complainant in the alleged burial case, but he managed to secure an anticipatory bail.

Dharmasthala PSI Samarth R Ganigera had filed a complaint on July 12 after Sameer aired the video on his YouTube channel 'Dhootha,' revealing some of the sensitive details related to the case. Later, Dharmasthala police registered a suo motu case under Sections 240 (false information), 192 (provocation with the intent to cause a riot), and 353(1)(B) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the BNS. Sameer was accused of creating an AI-generated 23-minute and 52-second-long video in which he had "created some of the fabricated details that went beyond the formal complaint of the witness-complainant and statement recorded before the court" despite the complainant being protected under the Witness Protection Scheme of 2018 and concealing his identity.He has been asked to appear for questioning once again on Monday.

GOVT ACTED HASTILY, SAYS RAJANNA

Former minister KN Rajanna said that the State Government acted hastily in the Dharmasthala mass burial case. "Immediately after the whistleblower brought a skull of an unidentified person, the SIT was formed without any prior inquiry or recording of his statement under Section 164. Everyone stumbled at the initial stage of the investigation," he said. "If they had just checked where the skull was brought from, and whether it was removed from the pit legally, all this nonsense would not have happened. It was an attempt to bring disrepute to the place of worship. Some agencies escalated the issue without any reason. Wherever the complainant pointed, the SIT dug and caused problems for residents. If common sense had prevailed at the beginning, none of this would have happened," he said.

Rahul's yatra a game changer, INDIA bloc will form govt in Bihar: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said that the INDIA bloc will win the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' is a big game changer.

"The yatra in Bihar is a big game changer in the country. The issue (vote theft) Rahul Gandhi has raised from Karnataka to Bihar has become the talk of the country. He is not fighting for himself... he is fighting for justice for a common man as guaranteed by the Constitution," Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Congress president, told reporters at Araria in Bihar on the sidelines of the yatra. Shivakumar is accompanied by 11 Congress MLAs from Karnataka.

Shivakumar, elaborating on Rahul's rally that commenced from Karnataka, said that the response shown by the youth of Bihar is phenomenal.

"The youth of Bihar need a change, and the change is for Mahagathbandhan... even in Karnataka I did not see this type of response. I thank the youth of Bihar. Last time, the INDIA bloc missed the opportunity by a whisker, but this time we will form the government," Shivakumar said.

He claimed that the Congress always fulfills its pre-poll promises. "We promptly implemented the guarantee schemes in Karnataka. The guarantees promised by Mahagathbandhan in Bihar will help the INDIA bloc win the polls," he said.

DKS slams BJP over 'misleading' picture

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar hit out at the BJP and its allies for reportedly circulating a picture on social media claiming that he was made to stand outside a jeep on which Rahul Gandhi was addressing a rally in Bihar. Shivakumar clarified that it was a picture taken just before he joined Rahul and posted a picture of him being on the jeep on his 'X' account.

"The right-wing ecosystem is once again hard at work, circulating misleading images and falsely claiming that I was made to stand outside the jeep during the Voter Adhikar Yatra. Let's set the record straight—with facts: First, thank you for your undivided attention to the Yatra and its every detail. Clearly, it's making the right people nervous. Second, the image being shared was taken before I joined Rahul Gandhi, in the jeep that led us to the Circuit House. Third, it's unfortunate (but not surprising) to see BJP-affiliated handles obsess over photo angles, seating arrangements, and who greeted whom—instead of addressing the real issue: Vote Chori. Imagine if even 10% of this energy was spent talking about stolen mandates. Fourth, to those trying to stir doubts about Kannada pride—don't. We're here to protect, uphold, and nurture it," Shivakumar further said.

LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi addresses a gathering at his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Araria, Bihar, on Sunday. Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar is also seen | PTI

> *The issue (vote theft) Rahul Gandhi has raised from Karnataka to Bihar has become the talk of the country. He is not fighting for himself... he is fighting for justice for a common man as guaranteed by Constitution* – DK Shivakumar

B'luru Central vote fraud wake-up call for all, says Mansoor Khan

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

The dust may have settled on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but the storm over Bengaluru Central is only getting louder. Defeated Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan said, "Bengaluru Central did not just witness an election, it became ground zero for a national reckoning with voter fraud. What happened here was not a glitch, it was a wake-up call for every Indian who values their right to vote." Pointing to alleged large-scale voter deletions in Mahadevapura and other Assembly segments, he said, "This was not about one campaign or one candidate, but about a system that can erase voices, no matter which party you support." He said, "It is a test case for the nation. Bengaluru Central became the showcase of Vote Chori. If we do not remember, if we do not act, this will become the new normal-not just here, but everywhere." Within hours of Khan's fiery speech, #VoteChori began trending. His comments come ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

'DKS can do as he pleases, but top brass does not act'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tumakuru

FORMER cooperation minister **KN Rajanna** here on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, saying the latter can do whatever he wished with no action from the party high command.

Rajanna was dismissed from the Siddaramaiah cabinet after he spoke adversely against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's vote theft yatra that started in Bengaluru. "He (Shivakumar) can recite the RSS anthem, share the dais with BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a private event, and do whatever he wants. But we cannot say anything," Rajanna said.

Even when AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge commented that "just taking a bath in Ganga in Prayagraj will not eliminate poverty", Shivakumar went to the Kumbh Mela and took a dip.

"Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not accept the invitation to the wedding of Ambani's son. But Shivakumar attended along with his family," Rajanna said. "We (Dalit leaders) cannot call any meetings of MLAs or ministers. Others (Surjewala) can call and speak. All this will be answered at an appropriate time," he said.

EXPRESS READ

ADEETIE scheme to help MSMEs save energy

BENGALURU: The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, is preparing a national road map for the ADEETIE (Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments) Scheme to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in adopting energy-efficient technologies. A virtual national-level interaction meeting on the road map has been scheduled for August 25, with State Designated Agencies (SDAs), including Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL), urged to participate. **ENS**

Centenarian leader of the CPI R Nallakannu has been admitted to a private hospital after he slipped at home and sustained a head injury on August 22. He is being treated in the intensive care unit. A team of experts have been constituted to provide him treatment

TN clears ONGC onshore drilling, sparks new row

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

A few hours after reports emerged that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for drilling 20 onshore exploratory wells in Ramanathapuram district, in Tamil Nadu, Environment and Climate Change Minister Thangam Thennarasu said the state has advised the SEIAA to withdraw the clearance accorded to the ONGC.

Thennarasu said, "The government would not allow any project relating to hydrocarbon in any part of the state, either now or in the future."The clearance, issued on March 11, allows ONGC to explore a designated block spread across 1,403 sqkm in the Ramnad sub-basin. Each well is expected to be drilled to depths of 2,000-3,000 metres, with operations lasting up to four months. Though the environmental clearance is granted, the ONGC can commence the work only after obtaining Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) from the state industries department, for which an application has already been filed and is pending for approval, sources told the *TNIE*.

"Considering the welfare of farmers and the general public, it is the firm policy decision of Chief Minister MK Stalin that no hydrocarbon-related projects can be permitted in any part of TN," Thennarasu's statement said.

Environmentalists say the block where the 20 exploratory wells are proposed is close to the ecologically-sensitive areas like Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park and several notified bird sanctuaries. The environmental clearance has also raised questions over transparency. Instead of being posted on the Union Environment Ministry's Parivesh portal, the official platform for tracking environmental approvals, the EC document was uploaded on the outdated environmentclearance.nic.in website. Activists allege this was a deliberate move to escape public scrutiny.

BJP leaders oppose Dasara invite to Banu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP leaders and elected representatives have opposed the state government's invitation to writer, activist and International Booker Prize winner **Banu Mushtaq** to inaugurate this year's Mysuru Dasara. Udupi MLA Yashpal Suvarna said the Siddaramaiah government has chosen a woman from a community that does not believe in Hinduism. By choosing her, the government is playing with the emotions of Hindus, he alleged.

Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal said he personally respects Banu, but her inaugurating Dasara by lighting the lamp and offering flowers to Goddess Bhuvaneshwari idol is against the belief of Islam. "We urge Banu to clarify whether she has Islamic beliefs. If she does not offer a clarification, it is better for her to inaugurate one of the sub-events of Dasara, like the poets' meet,

instead of the main Dasara celebrations," he said.

Mysuru-Kodagu former BJP MP Prathap Simha too expressed his displeasure, saying Dasara is not a secular festival. "She could have been chosen to preside over the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana and not Dasara," he opined.

Unfazed, Banu Mushtaq delivered a razor-sharp response, "I will not make any comment against them or against anyone to belittle my country." There is a precedent though. In 2017, writer Nisar Ahmed was invited to inaugurate the Dasara but there was no backlash then.

Minimum infra is needed to set up water aerodromes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SIGANDOOR and other identified spots remain open for operators to bid for. A water aerodrome is an area of open water, such as a lake, river, dam backwaters, or coastal stretch, that is designated for the landing and takeoff of seaplanes. It makes use of water bodies, equipped with minimal infrastructure like floating jetties, passenger terminals and navigational aids. This makes it suitable for promoting regional air connectivity in areas where building a traditional airport is difficult because of the terrain or cost. Water aerodromes in the country are now being planned mainly in tourist and eco-sensitive areas.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol revealed details of the proposals while replying to an unstarred question from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha member Kota Srinivasa Poojary in the Lok Sabha.

Asked about any proposal to expand regional air connectivity in the state beyond Bengaluru, Mohol said that under UDAN 5.2, bids have been received for small aircraft operations (less than 20-seaters) for Ballari and Kolar airstrips.

The state government has to agree and confirm the availability of land for the development of these airports, he added.

MASK PROTEST

DYFI activists wear masks of MP Shafi Parambil and MLA Rahul Mamkootathil and interact with people during their protest demanding the resignation of Mamkootathil over his alleged sexual misconduct, in Palakkad, on Sunday | EXPRESS

Man chops pregnant wife, dumps parts in Hyd river

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

NEARLY 20 months love marriage between couple belonging to different castes in the face of parental disapproval, ended in tragedy with the husband brutally killing his wife and dismembering her body before throwing them into the Musi River at Boduppal in the city on Saturday.

Malkajgiri DCP PV Padmaja said. "As per his pre-plan, Reddy purchased a hacksaw at Boduppal, kept it in the house, and waited for an opportunity. On Saturday, he left home at 11 am, returned at about 4.30 pm and lost no time in strangling Swathi to death. Ater killing her, Mahender texted from Swathi's phone to her mother at 8 pm, saying that "we had dinner."

Malkajgiri ACP S Chakrapani said that after cutting her body into pieces, Mahender made three trips to the Musi river. Mahender called his sister and told her that Swathi was missing. She got suspicious and called her close relative Govardhan Reddy. Police said that when Govardhan asked Mahender to file a missing complaint, but he resisted. Later, he agreed and those two people went to Uppal police station at around 11 pm to lodge a complaint. As the jurisdiction of the crime scene falls under Medipally police station, the police asked them to file the case in Medipally. Then, they went to Medipally police station at around 11.45 pm. Over his suspicious behaviour, the police questioned him and he confessed that he had killed his wife. "He did not expect that the relatives would reach the police fastly", a police official added.

After confessing, the police went to the accused house. There, the police found the human torso. He confessed that he chopped and threw it in musi river. However, the police searched for the body parts in Musi with the help of NDRF and GHMC. "As the river flow is fast and the depth is around 20 feet, we could not retrieve the body parts yet", said a police official.

BJP comes with a Tamil mask for VP poll, says Stalin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

ACCUSING the BJP of wearing a Tamil identity mask to seek Vsupport for its Vice-Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President MK Stalin on Sunday said It is ideologies, not individuals, that guide politics since individuals are just symbols. We should support the ideology which stands for people.

Speaking in support of the INDIA Alliance candidate for the vice-presidential election, B Sudharshana Reddy, retired judge of the Supreme Court, Stalin said, "Having acted against Tamil Nadu and its people in every possible way, now the BJP is donning a Tamil identity mask to seek support for its VP candidate."

"You (Reddy) are eminently qualified for the post of Vice President of India. That is why the INDIA Alliance has declared you as our candidate. At a time when the BJP is attempting to undermine the Constitution, we require a judge who has defended it to once again safeguard it. Justice Reddy is also one who respects Tamil Nadu and its sentiments," Stalin added.

1 in 4 rabies deaths in TN linked to pet dog bites

SINDUJA JANE @ Chennai

WITH the recent Supreme Court judgments triggering intense and polarised debates on the issue of increasing stray dog population, dog bites and rabies cases, data show that of the 64 rabies deaths recorded in Tamil Nadu in the last 19 months (January 2024 to August 2025), 15 deaths (23.4%) were caused by pet dog bites and rest due to attack by stray dogs (76%).

According to the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine data accessed by *TNIE*, of the 43 rabies deaths recorded in 2024, 41 were due to partial or complete lack of vaccination, and two persons died even after completion of full vaccination schedule due to possible viral load.

Experts said the data underscored the need for dog owners to get their pets mandatorily vaccinated once every year as the trend indicated that a large number of pet dogs may be unvaccinated.

Doctors also emphasise the need for people to take required doses of rabies vaccine (along with rabies immunoglobulin depending on the nature of the bite) as part of post-exposure prophylaxis even if they are bitten by their vaccinated pet dogs.

Though the chance of getting infected could be minimal in case of vaccinate dogs, there is a remote possibility of infection if the victims skip PEP, experts said.

Activists take out a rally for the protection of stray dogs in response to the recent Supreme Court order in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on Sunday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

EXPRESS READ

City Engineering College hosts graduation ceremony

Bengaluru: The City Engineering College hosted the graduation ceremony at its campus on Kanakapura Road on Saturday. Degrees were awarded to 250 students while four students from AI&ML and ISE departments, who secured university ranks from VTU, were felicitated. The event was attended by Dr K R Paramahamsa, President of AMC, City, Cambridge and Brooklyn institutions; Vice-President K Geetha Paramahamsa; Dr M Girish Chandra, Chief Scientist at Tata Research and TCS, Bengaluru; Dr S Karunakar, Principal and Dr Sowmya, Head of Department. **ENS**

CMR varsity holds seminar on pvt universities

Bengaluru: The Forum of Former Vice Chancellors of Karnataka (FVCK), in collaboration with CMR University, organised a seminar on 'Functioning of Private Universities in Karnataka' at its campus on Saturday. The seminar brought together former vice-chancellors from across Karnataka to deliberate on the opportunities, challenges and policy directions for private universities in the state. The seminar was inaugurated by KC Ramamurthy, Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions, and former member of Rajya Sabha. **ENS**

Odisha braces for floods as rivers swell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

THE Odisha government on Sunday issued a flood alert for at least four districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur as water levels in the Subarnarekha, Baitarani and Brahmani rivers have started rising due to incessant rainfall in the upper catchment areas.

The rains have been triggered by back-to-back low pressures in the Bay of Bengal. With the IMD forecast of more heavy rains due to annother system through the week, the collectors have been asked to keep the administrative gear in readiness to deal with any eventuality.

Engineer-in-chief (EIC) of Water Resources department Chandra Sekhar Padhi said the water level in Subarnarekha and Baitarani rivers had started rising since Saturday. Subarnarekha was flowing at 10.85 metre against the danger level of 10.36 metre at Rajghat in Balasore district. The government is expecting a medium scale flood in the district, he said.

District collector instructed all BDOs, tehsildars and senior officials to monitor the situation.

10k trees to be cut for Sharavathi project

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

THE proposed 2,000-megawatt Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts is expected to result in the felling of around 10,000 trees. But this is less than the original estimate of 16,041 trees.

Replying to an unstarred question from MLC Dr Dhananjaya Sarji in the Council recently, Energy Minister KJ George said the project will be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,240 crore. The project will store an average of 12 million units of energy per day. He acknowledged that there would be a temporary disturbance to the forest, but maintained that the overall environmental impact would be limited. The system will allow the state to store surplus

power during off-peak seasons and release it when the demand is high, he added.

The project will use the existing Talakalale dam as the upper reservoir and Gerusoppa dam in the Sharavathi Valley as the lower reservoir. The Central Electricity Authority approved the detailed project report last year, and the project is scheduled to be completed in five years. After the project, 54.15 hectares of revenue land will be handed over to the Forest Department for afforestation. Creating a green canopy and animal corridors, as suggested by the Forest Department, will be taken up during the implementation to protect endangered wildlife, he added.

The project requires 100.64 hectares of land, including 54.15 hectares of forest land and 46.49 hectares of non-forest land. George said the project will not alter the flow of the river and or disturb existing infrastructure, like transmission corridors, colony offices and roads. George said the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has scheduled public hearings, which will be held on September 16 in Shivamogga and September 18 in Uttara Kannada.

ವಾಸವಿ ಕ್ರೆಡಿಟ್ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಛೇರಿ: ನಂ.108/1, ಶ್ರೀಚಕ್ರ, ಈಸ್ಟ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಾಸವಿ ಮಹಲ್ ಎದುರು, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 23447014, 23318815
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35ನೇ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆ ಸೂಚನಾ ಪತ್ರ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೇ,
ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ 35ನೇ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.09.2025ರ ಭಾನುವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ರಾ.ಪ. ರವಿಶಂಕರ್‌ರವರ** ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ ನಿರ್ಣಯಿಸಲು ಸಭೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಸ್ಥಳ: ವಾಸವಿ ಮಹಲ್, ಈಸ್ಟ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, 8ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003.** ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ತಾವು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಪ್ಪದೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ. ಈ ಸಭೆಯ ನೋಟಿಸು ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಹ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ನೋಟಿಸು ತಲುಪದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೆ ಸಭೆಯ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/-
(ನಂದಕುಮಾರ್ ಕೆ.)
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.08.2025
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾಸವಿ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೋ-ಆಪರೇಟಿವ್ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ನಂ.108, ಶ್ರೀಚಕ್ರ, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಈಸ್ಟ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಾಸವಿ ಮಹಲ್ ಎದುರು, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-23565546
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E-mail: vasavihousing@gmailcom

16ನೇ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆ ಸೂಚನಾ ಪತ್ರ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೇ,
ನಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ 16ನೇ ಸರ್ವಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.09.2025ರ ಭಾನುವಾರ ಸಂಜೆ 04.30** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ರಾ.ಪ. ರವಿಶಂಕರ್‌ರವರ** ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ ನಿರ್ಣಯಿಸಲು ಸಭೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಸ್ಥಳ: ವಾಸವಿ ಮಹಲ್, ಈಸ್ಟ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, 8ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560003.** ಸಂಘದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ತಾವು ಸಭೆಗೆ ತಪ್ಪದೆ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ. ಈ ಸಭೆಯ ನೋಟಿಸು ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಹ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ನೋಟಿಸು ತಲುಪದ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೆ ಸಭೆಯ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/-
(ಎನ್. ಉಮಾ)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.08.2025
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
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CIN No. - U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 601 **Time Extension Notice-04** Date: 23.08.2025

Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates in respect of online Bid Identification Nos.:(i)T-01/EE(Solar)/2025-26 (ii) T-02/EE(Solar)/2025-26 (iii) T-03/EE(Solar)/2025-26 are extended as follows:
Date for availability of bid document on the portal: 15-09-2025 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid on the portal: 06-10-2025 till 16:00 Hrs.
Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancelation etc. may be obtained from the website.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer (Solar)

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KARNATAKA VETERINARY, ANIMAL & FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY,
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MBA (Food Business)
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

No.R/MBA-Admn/Notification/2025-26/ Date: 25-08-2025

Online applications are invited for admission to **MBA** (FOOD BUSINESS) at Dairy Science College, Hebbal, Bengaluru Campus of the university for the Academic year 2025-26.
Application Fee: Rs.750/- for SC/ST/Cat-1 and Rs.1500/- for Others
Mode of Payment: ONLINE to the account of Assistant Comptroller, MBA Revolving Fund (Canara Bank, Hebbal, A/C No. 0425101050836, IFSC code: CNRB0000425).
Important Dates:
Commencement of online application: 25-08-2025
Last date for submission of application: 26-09-2025
Date of written test, GD and Interview: 10-10-2025
For eligibility, prospectus and other details visit www.foodmba.in

By order
Sd/-
(Dr. P T Ramesh)
Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients are intending to purchase vacant (Site) bearing New EPID number 1454558598 property number 273/147/47, situated in ward number 190, more fully described in the schedule from its owners, H P Nagabhushana and Family, resident of Chikka sandra, Bangalore North, if any person, institution or authority have any objection or claim in respect of the said property, they are directed to file the same within **15 days** from the date of this advertisement, failing, which my clients will proceed with the registration of the sale deed, being devoid of any objections or impediments.

SCHEDULE.

All that peace and parcel of the vacant site situated in **ward number 190, Mangammanapalya** coming under the BBMP bearing New EPID Number 1454558598 and property number 273/147/47 Measuring east to west 40 feet, north to South 71 feet (12.19x21.64 meters) area of 263.84 square Meter or 2840 Squre ft. bounded on the
East by: site number 46, West by: Site number 48, NORTH by: Private property and South by: Road.

V. Keshavarao Mohite, Advocate
No. 35, Behind Bhupathi Tennis Village,
Virupakshapura Bengaluru-97.
Ph 9844469408

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	(South-2)	BWSSB/EE(S2)/TO/PB/768/ 2025-26 Date: 19.08.2025	Rs.3,24,391/- / Rs.8,200/-	08.09.2025 upto 4.00 pm	10.09.2025 after 4.30 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(S2)/PB/770/ 2025-26 Date: 19.08.2025	Rs.9,61,857/- / Rs.24,100/-	01.09.2025 upto 4.00 pm	03.09.2025 after 4.30 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/2455/AKAR/2025-26

EDITORIAL

Greatness is a property for which no man can receive credit too soon; it must be possessed long before it is acknowledged

Ralph Waldo Emerson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CORE VS HEADLINE: INDIA'S INFLATION DEBATE DEEPENS

THE RBI's Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework will turn 10 next year, and the central bank believes it has met its expectations. Over the last nine years, India experienced a hump-shaped performance, with inflation behaving like an obedient child in the first and last three years. The middle three years saw retail prices breach the upper tolerance band, mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. If average inflation hovered around 4 percent from 2016 to 2019, it stayed above 6 percent for five quarters from the first quarter of Financial Year 2022 to the fourth quarter of Financial Year 2023. With a review slated for next March, key questions arise: Should core inflation replace headline inflation as the anchor for monetary policymaking, as suggested by the Economic Survey, 2025? Or should the government re-examine the 4 percent target and consider establishing a tolerance band?

Those championing core inflation argue that the food component is outside the RBI's purview and, therefore, core inflation should guide policy. They reason that stabilising core inflation leads to better economic outcomes. However, RBI maintains that persistent food inflation can spill over to core inflation through higher wage costs, higher rents, and higher markups. Which is why its expert committee in 2014 insisted that since food and fuel constitute more than 50 percent of the consumption basket, inflation based on less than half the basket would not be representative. As former Governor Shaktikanta Das noted, eliminating food from the target would amount to having no target at all. "It will make no sense to the average citizen, as it is the headline inflation that the common person understands and should remain that way." Even as the debate over core vs headline remains unfinished, there's another view that the inflation target itself needs to be reset.

However, the central bank may not be in agreement. In its recent discussion paper, it noted that changing the target now, when the global economy is confronted with geopolitical uncertainty, can be interpreted by international investors as a dilution of the IT framework, thereby undermining policy credibility. It reasoned that the current tolerance band of 2-6 percent allows headroom to account for deviations from temporary food and fuel price shocks. That said, price stability is a shared responsibility between the government and RBI, and hence needs effective monetary-fiscal coordination to prevent second-round inflationary effects.

FERTILISER DEMAND, POOR SUPPLY STIR FARM CRISIS

A crisis is simmering in Telangana, and the farmers are at the receiving end. Serpentine queues at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society centres for hours on end, at places even from early morning, have become the norm—something not witnessed in years. The reason is an acute shortage of urea.

The Centre has allotted 9.8 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) to Telangana for this Kharif, but the state has received 5.42 LMT so far. The situation is largely the same in other states. Reasons are many. There are global supply chain disruptions and lower-than-expected imports due to factors such as China halting its exports. Still, India has agreements with the Saudis, UAE, Nigeria, and other countries to import urea. It's not that we are entirely dependent on imports; we are the world's third-largest producer of fertilisers. However, as the second-largest user in the world, the country is not yet self-reliant. It is clear that something has gone wrong, and the sooner the Centre and states acknowledge it, the better. Domestic production isn't on expected lines. The Ramagundam Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd went out of action for some time. The urea stock with the Centre at the beginning of this month was about half of what it was last August.

Furthermore, the increased cultivable area in Telangana is taking its toll. Farmers in the state use about 170 kg per acre. When we consider that the sown area increased to 118.69 lakh acres from 91 lakh acres last year, the picture becomes clearer. Additionally, paddy cultivation has grown significantly, resulting in increased demand for fertilisers. A closer examination raises pertinent questions. Granted, we have import constraints. What have the Centre and states done to keep pace with the demand? There are programmes to promote natural farming and fertilisers other than the widely used ones. However, much more needs to be done to raise awareness among farmers. Importantly, domestic production must be freed from the 'inspector raj' as industry bodies demand. Currently, the Centre must expedite imports, ramp up domestic production, and improve distribution. Both the ruling and opposition in the state have turned the crisis into a boxing match, with the result that panic is spreading. The onus is on both to see reality for what it is, rather than confusing the farmers.

QUICK TAKE

COURTING MARRIAGE

RECENTLY, the Chhattisgarh High Court ruled that mocking a husband for being jobless is cruelty, while the Bombay High Court said that mocking a wife's complexion is just a domestic quarrel. Different circumstances, different interpretations. This contrast raises a question: why let things reach this stage at all, with love reading like a charge sheet? An eminent sociologist suggests that today's couples share a greater sense of individuality. The Supreme Court also states matter-of-factly that a forced union runs contrary to the purpose of matrimonial law, which envisions companionship and shared responsibilities. Ultimately, a relationship isn't a test of who wounds the other deeper.

The growing use of laws like UAPA and PMLA to pin political opponents and dissenters reveals a disturbing trend of abuse of legal frameworks. The latest Bills pave the way for a new form of dictatorship

DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL: FROM THE RULE OF LAW TO RULE BY LAW

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

THE surest way to throttle democracy is to weaponise laws and target those opposing the government. This government seems to have converted this into an art.

I recall the day the amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), was taken up for discussion in Parliament. The Home Minister openly stated that this was necessary, for none could oppose the inclusion of terrorists and terrorist organisations in the First Schedule of the UAPA, seeking to destabilise our Republic. I intervened and expressed my fears that these laws are likely to be used against our citizens; it has turned out to be a reality. The prosecution of young students, like Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, under those laws has resulted in them languishing in jail for years without a trial. Such laws have been used against journalists, academics, and members of religious communities in this country. The obvious intent was to silence them.

The weaponisation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is evident in its widespread use against political opponents, including chief ministers and ministers from opposition-ruled states, such as Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Satyendra Jain, Hemant Soren, and Farooq Abdullah, among others. Valiant attempts were made to move against Siddaramaiah, but they came to nought. These laws have also been used to instil fear in several leaders who were once part of the opposition but have been persuaded to join the BJP to save themselves from prosecution and imprisonment. The BJP has, particularly in Maharashtra, rewarded opposition leaders against whom serious allegations of corruption were publicly made for causing a split in their erstwhile parties. They are now part of the coalition ruling Maharashtra.

The latest example of weaponisation of laws is the introduction of two Constitution (Amendment) Bills in Parliament on August 20, 2025. It is claimed that this is being done in public interest, for the welfare of the people and to uphold the principles of constitutional morality, and good governance—concepts that are alien to the functioning of this government. What is likely to serve is not public interest, but the political interest of the ruling dispensation. This is clear from the fact that the proposed law provides that the chief ministers and ministers being investigated for offences punishable for more than five years and being in custody for more than 30 days will, on the 31st day, if they have not resigned, be dismissed by the governor of the state.

The principle of law that our Republic has embraced is that a person is innocent till proven guilty. In this case, a minister or a chief minister can be removed on a mere allegation without any proof. We are all aware that many such cases have been pending trial for over a decade and that the conviction rate in several of these prosecutions is abysmally low. If the proposed constitutional amendments become law, it is most likely that trumped-up allegations will be made to target sitting chief ministers and ministers, and after 30 days in custody, they will be dismissed from those positions. Such allegations in the past have served the political interests of the BJP. The present establishment seeks to utilise these laws for its own political purposes.

This weaponisation is also evident from how laws such as PMLA or UAPA have been used against influential ministers seeking to coerce them to join the BJP, or even public servants not belonging to any political party, in opposition-ruled states. Ironically, since 2014, these laws have never been invoked against any minister in any of the BJP-ruled states, or, for that matter, against any minister within the ruling establishment at the Centre. Obviously, the selective use of such laws serves the political interest of the party in power.

The other matter of great concern is that such laws will allow the governor to dismiss a chief minister or a minister of the opposition-ruled state, which, under the present legal framework, can happen only upon conviction. In addition, prosecution against public servants holding such positions can only be launched by seeking the sanction of the Council of Ministers in the case of prosecution against a minister and that of the governor in the case of a chief minister. By seeking to do away with the sanction provision, such laws weaponise the governors appointed by the Union to dismiss a minister or a chief minister. This is a direct invasion of the federal structure of this country, which the Supreme Court has held to be one of the basic features of the Constitution.

Having set out the above, it is also significant that these constitutional amendments have been introduced by the present establishment, aware that such Bills cannot become law without garnering the support of a two-thirds majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The NDA, at present, consists of 293 members of the Lok Sabha, whereas for such Bills to pass muster, it must receive the support of 363 members. This is obviously a tall order, and these Bills, in all likelihood, will fail.

If they become law, they will surely be challenged in the courts. The courts will not favour such attempts to deface the Constitution. On the face of it, these Bills are manifestly unjust, violate the fundamental tenets of federalism and the basic principles of the rule of law.

One wonders why these Bills were introduced in the first place. There may be two reasons. One, the canard that the government wishes to rid the polity of criminals who are being prosecuted and that the opposition does not want to uphold the principles of constitutional morality—a political narrative, which in the context of how this government has jettisoned these principles, will not find favour with the people. Perhaps the other and real reason is to divert the attention of the people of India from the massive show of public support for opposition leaders in the run-up to the assembly elections in Bihar.

It appears constitutional democracy can be throttled and stymied through the weaponisation of laws. A new form of dictatorship!

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

WHEN WISDOM TOOK THE CROWN

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WE pray to Ganesha to remove difficulties from our path. However, on the ground, this means developing our emotional intelligence to get out of difficulties ourselves with minimal damage control. So, let us revisit in greater detail than September 2022, a story of high emotional intelligence.

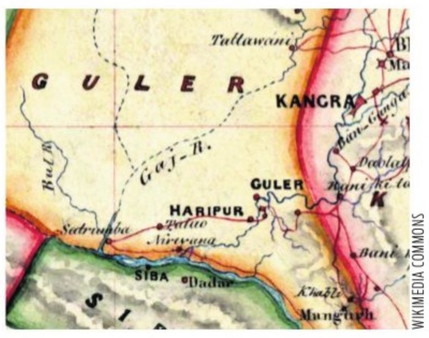
This tale concerns one of the world's oldest royal houses, which went under the rubble of time. Trigarta was an ancient kingdom in Punjab, traversing the rivers Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej. It is mentioned in the Ramayana, Mahabharata and the *Brahmanda Purana*. The Trigartas are said to have fought off the Persians and Assyrians and appear in the annals of Alexander's expedition to India in 326 BCE. Raja Parmanand Chandra is believed to be the 'Porus' who fought and lost to Alexander on the banks of the Beas. When 'Porus' was brought captive to him, Alexander, who considered him a worthy foe, asked him how he wished to be treated, and 'Porus' reportedly answered with superb simplicity: "Like a king."

In the Mahabharata, the kings of Trigarta are described as sworn territorial enemies of Matsya, a kingdom allied to the Pandavas. So, they fought against them under their first cousin, Duryodhana, at Kurukshetra. Susharma, the Trigarta raja, led a do-or-die squadron called the Samsaptaka to capture Yudhishtira. He and his entire force were killed by Arjuna.

Just so, the Trigarta rajas are said to have fought and lost to Sri Rama. The Trigartas are nobles of the Chandravanshi or 'lunar dynasty'. The Katoch Rajputs, who claim descent from the Trigartas, founded the kingdom of Kangra in the hills to the east of Punjab that later became the modern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The first-known Katoch raja was Bhumi Chand, and the Brahmanda Purana says he built the original temple to Devi Parvati at Jwalamukhi in the Kangra Valley, which still draws flocks of devotees. The Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Zuan Xang visited the Katoch kingdom in the seventh century, then known as 'Jalandhara'.

The Katoch also fought the great kingdom of Kannauj, from which the royal houses of Marwar and Bikaner sprang. They battled Mohammed of Ghazni and Mohammed of Ghori, and resisted Akbar's siege in 1615. They sided with Guru Gobind Singh against Aurangzeb and fought Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who visited Jwalamukhi in 1815 and covered the temple spire with gold. The Katoch also fought the British. In 1847, Raja Parmodh Chandra fired a 101-gun salute, a practice later reserved by the British Crown for itself, to inform his people that their king was on the throne. He led an army of 8,000 Katoch across the Beas against the British forces stationed in Pathankot for the Second Anglo-Sikh War. Parmodh Chandra was betrayed by a person named Pahad Chand, defeated, and deported to the hill town of Almora, where he died in 1851. Kangra was subsumed in the British Empire. Today, any number of Katoch fight in the Indian armed forces. To follow the annals of the Katoch clan is to unspool the history of North India in one skein, for they appear in every epoch—sturdy warriors who repeatedly fought forces greater than theirs. Their fortunes foundered, but they went on. No other noble house seems to have had quite that continuity.

Although the princely order was abolished by modern India in 1971, a Katoch raja by name still exists today, and there are four branches of Katoch: Jaswal, Guleria, Sibaia and Dadwal.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Raja Hari Chand's tale highlights the power of humility and inner peace. His decision not to challenge his brother is a product of his emotional intelligence, a quality essential for navigating life's challenges

Our tale is about a scion of this ancient clan sometime in the fifteenth century. He was the founder of the scenic hill kingdom of Guler, a Katoch king called Raja Hari Chand from the old royal family of Kangra.

Like most royals and feudal chiefs around the world, Hari Chand loved the hunt. One fine day in late summer, his quarry led him on a long chase, and the king left his companions far behind. Along the way, he dismounted to look for tracks. His foot slipped and he fell into a deep hole. "A dry well," he thought before his head struck a rock and he passed out. The grasses that hid the well closed over it again.

Meanwhile, the king's companions searched the forest, growing increasingly afraid. When the king's horse was discovered, a companion rushed back to the fort to get reinforcements. The king's younger brother, the prime minister, the senapati, and a select band of soldiers and trackers went looking. After days of desperate search, they were forced to mourn the king as dead. His younger brother was crowned the new raja of Guler.

Months into the new reign, the court was disturbed one day by a great commotion in the forecourt. Into a shocked silence walked Raja Hari Chand, leaner, scarred, and simply dressed. The new king ran forward to hug his elder brother and touch his feet. Tears in his eyes, he bowed and indicated the throne to him.

And this is when emotional intelligence spoke. Hari Chand refused to take back his rightful kingdom. Life had ordained that his brother should sit on the throne. To take it away seemed wrong and impractical. It was miraculous enough that gypsies had found him, nursed him, and brought him home.

To everyone's amazement, Hari Chand said, "With your Majesty's permission, I will make myself another fort below Guler, on the banks of the Banganga river." And that's what happened. In one graceful move, he not only secured his own status but also retained his brother as an ally, rather than an enemy. Surely, Ganesha would have approved.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

India's pendency

Ref: *A governance quiz missed at monsoon session* (Aug 24). Our administrative ecosystem is brimming with propaganda and less substantive output. India has become the pendency capital of the world. From pending litigations to unfilled vacancies and unspent budget allocations, our lacklustre efforts paint a gloomy picture.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

National degradation

Ref: *Vice precedency* (Aug 24). The column sheds light on the nuances through which citizens have been kept in the dark. It is a serious matter that the politico-ideological scape of the nation has undergone tremendous change—as far as the cultural plurality and its underlying unity is concerned.
Krishnaprasad S, Palakkad

Industries pollute

Ref: *The right to clean environment* (Aug 24). A stark difference has been seen after the early 1990s when our economy opened up and the pollution of water bodies increased. Even though pollution control boards—central and state—took measures to control water pollution, industrial pollution has been rampant.
P Narasimhan, Dharmapuri

Judicial authority

Ref: *Level playing field* (Aug 23). Disqualification must remain tied to convictions by the judiciary; shortcuts that eject elected representatives upon mere detention will corrode the presumption of innocence and federal checks. A 'level playing field' would ideally consist of fast-track trials with safeguards and statutory oversight of enforcement agencies—not summary removals.
Sanjeev Jha, Delhi

Pan-global reach

Ref: *Postal service to US first to take hit* (Aug 24). Despite declining usage in the digital age, India Post remains a dependable and affordable service, often more trustworthy than private couriers that overcharge customers. Unlike courier firms, India Post ensures wider reach, especially in rural areas where alternatives are scarce.
R S Narula, Patiala

Overlooked fatalities

Ref: *They are not strays, they are ours* (Aug 24). The article is weighing heavily in favour of our canine community. Neither the administration nor the activists come forward to think of the plight of the hapless living victims of dog bites leading to immense physical/mental suffering and even death.
A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Bhupesh Baghel @bhupeshbaghel
If a "tadipar" can become the Home Minister of this country and the national president of the BJP, then why can't a former judge become the V-P of the country?

Amit Shah @AmitShah
Remembering Arun Jaitley Ji on his Punyatithi... His unwavering commitment to public service will continue to inspire young leaders and policymakers.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Even with opportunistic allies BJP doesn't have numbers to pass constitutional amendment...Kudos to @AITCofficial for boycotting farcical JPC.

New copters to be procured to replace Chetak in Navy

76 twin-engine helicopters to be equipped with wheeled landing gear

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Sunday issued a request for information (RFI) for the procurement of 76 naval utility helicopters (NUH) for the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.

As per the MoD, of the 76, as many as 51 helicopters will be for the Navy and the remaining 25 for the coast guard. These helicopters will replace Chetak helicopters and will be inducted for maritime search and rescue, HADR mission, low intensity maritime operations.

The helicopter should be capable of operating from ship and ashore. Towards maritime surveillance and targeting capability, weapons to meet the envisaged role would be required to be integrated with the helicopters. The vendors are to submit their responses by October 17, 2025.

As per the RFI, the helicopter should be twin engine, having wheeled landing gear and blade fold capability with maximum all up weight not exceeding 5 tons. The RFI is the first step in the procurement process to gather general information about potential products, services, and suppliers before issuing the formal proposal.

New copters to operate from ship and ashore

The helicopter should be capable of operating from ship and ashore. Weapons to meet the envisaged role would be required to be integrated with the helicopters. It should be twin engine, having wheeled landing gear and blade fold capability with maximum weight not exceeding 5 tons.

The helicopter will be procured under 'Buy and Make (India)' category and should be able to perform the maritime search and rescue, casualty evacuation, medical evacuation, communication duties, aerial fire-fighting and low intensity maritime operation (LIMO) among others, by day and night.

As per MoD, 'Buy & Make (Indian)' category refers to an initial procurement of equipment in Fully Formed (FF) state in quantities as considered necessary, from an Indian vendor engaged in a tie-up with a foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), followed by indigenous production in a phased manner involving Transfer of Technology (ToT) of critical technologies as per specified range, depth and scope from the foreign OEM.

Under this category of procurement, a minimum of 50% Indigenous Content (IC) is required on the cost basis of the make portion of the contract. Acquisition under this category can also be carried out without any initial procurement of equipment in FF state.

Swachhata campaign 5.0 goes beyond scrap, to focus on e-waste disposal

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Centre's annual special campaign on 'swachhata' (cleanliness) will expand its scope this year by prioritising the disposal of e-waste generated in government offices, in addition to clearing old files and scrap. Ministries and departments have been directed to scientifically manage discarded electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) such as printers, CPUs, monitors, batteries, and laptops under Special Campaign 5.0, beginning October 2.

According to Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan, who has written to all secretaries, the aim is to institutionalise cleanliness and reduce pendency. The campaign will cover not only ministries and departments but also field and outstation offices with direct public interface, as well as autonomous bodies and PSUs.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), which has steered the initiative since 2021, has issued guidelines to ensure compliance with the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022. "This year's edition will place special emphasis on scientific disposal of e-waste. Offices must identify and safely dispose of discarded electronic equipment," officials said.

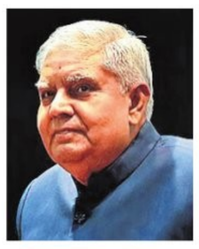
The campaign will be conducted in two phases. During the preparatory phase from September 15 to 30, ministries will nominate nodal officers, identify pending references, plan space utilisation, assess scrap and e-waste volumes and finalise disposal procedures. The implementation phase will start on October 2, and will focus on cleanliness drives, e-waste disposal and clearance of pending matters, including MPs' references, PMO notes and public grievances.

According to officials, over the last four years, the special campaign has generated revenue of ₹3,220 crore from scrap disposal, covered nearly 12 lakh sites and facilitated the closure of 1.37 crore files.

In his letter sent to secretaries of all ministries, Somanathan's directive noted, "Your leadership and active involvement will be crucial for the success of the campaign as in the past four years. Appropriate instructions may also be issued to all offices under your ministry for meaningful participation."

INSIDER TRACK

Where's Dhankhar? Speculation on



"There is a big story behind Dhankhar's resignation... and also a story about why he is in hiding," Rahul Gandhi said recently, setting off fresh speculation. Ever since the abrupt exit of the former Vice President, curiosity about his whereabouts has only grown. Sources indicate that Dhankhar is doing well, spending his days at the Vice President's Enclave engaging in activities such as yoga, table tennis, and spiritual reading. But many in Delhi aren't buying it. Opposition MPs complain that they've tried to reach him, but only receive the standard reply: "He will contact you soon." CPI MP P. Sandosh Kumar has even written to him, urging a public reassurance. Adding to the mystery, Dhankhar hasn't yet claimed his official residence on APJ Abdul Kalam Road. Missing? Not quite. Absent? Certainly.

Vastu theory behind resignation

The Monsoon Session was always expected to be stormy. What no one saw coming was Jagdeep Dhankhar's sudden resignation as Vice President. With no apparent reason given, Delhi is buzzing with theories. The latest floating around: Could it be Vastu? Some politicians whisper that the new Parliament building—and even the VP's residence—may have a Vastu dosh. Congress leader Pramod Tiwari has hinted at it, while staffers chuckle but don't dismiss the timing. After all, the new building has been dogged by controversy from day one—boycotts, Sengol debates, and even RJD's "coffin" comparison. Some are even linking the BJP's reduced tally in 2024 to this supposed cosmic imbalance. Far-fetched? Perhaps. However, in Delhi, when politics becomes murky, even the stars get drawn in. A Parliament staff member asks: "Maybe it's time for a Vastu recheck?"

Few tweaks to lateral entry 2.0

Remember when the government opened its doors to private-sector professionals for top jobs in Delhi? That "lateral entry" experiment is now being retooled. Behind closed doors at DoPT, officials are tweaking the model after a bumpy first round. Three key issues stand out: whether to allow reservations, how to define roles clearly, and how to align salaries with those of civil servants. Many outside hires struggled with the slow pace of bureaucracy—some even found themselves overwhelmed by paperwork far removed from their areas of expertise. A second innings for lateral entry is on the cards. But this time, the system wants fewer bruises.

Rail Bhawan needs a new boss

With Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar set to retire on August 31, the guessing game is in full steam. Kumar had just a year in the hot seat—and chatter has begun on who will take charge next. Two names top the shortlist: Naveen Gulati, Member (Infrastructure), and Vivek Kumar Gupta, Western Railway GM. Gulati has seniority but little time left before retirement. Gupta has more years in hand, plus experience with the Gati Shakti and Bullet Train projects. But this is Rail Bhawan, where surprises are always possible. A six-month extension for Kumar is also being quietly discussed. For now, the platform is crowded, and the signal is still red.

Of manners and toll plaza scuffles

The Bhuni Toll Plaza fracas—an alleged altercation between plaza staff and an Army man—has reignited a familiar debate: whatever happened to basic manners? The NHAI has been running workshops on soft skills and etiquette for toll staff for over a year. Yet, as this latest clash shows, the effort hasn't quite hit the road. The agency handling the plaza has been blacklisted, and its contract has been scrapped. For everyday travellers, though, the worry is simpler. Will the next toll stop be about payment—or yet another argument?

SC asks states to expedite boundary demarcation of wetlands within 2 months

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

NOTING that state wetland authorities are moving at snail's pace, the Supreme Court has directed States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands within two months.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria said the exercise carried out by the authorities reflects the sorry state of affairs and the directions issued have not yielded positive results.

"We direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today, failing which, the secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this court on next date of hearing," the bench said.

The SC made clear that inaction on the part of authorities would compel it to pass coercive orders against those States which have failed to comply with the directions.

"In the light of the wetlands having been identified, it is incumbent upon the State Wetland Authorities to publish the same in the respective State Governments' website... Let the affidavit of compliance be filed immediately after such an exercise being undertaken and at any rate before the next date of hearing," the bench said in its August 19 order.

The SC said the Union of India shall coordinate with the State Level Wetland Authorities and expedite the issuance of notifications for which the draft notifications are already in place.

"The statistics furnished would also reflect that wetlands, which are less than 2.25 hectares, are required to be identified as prescribed under the extant rules and the affidavits of the state governments of wetland authorities shall also delve upon as to the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect these wetlands which are less than 2.25 hectares, which according to the statistics is around 5,55,557 as mentioned in the Wetland Atlas," the bench said.

New bills a move to topple Oppn govts, says Kharge

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

REFERRING to the three bills that lay down the framework for the removal of the prime minister and chief ministers following their arrest for 30 consecutive days, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday accused the Centre of snatching the people's rights to form and remove governments and passing it on to agencies such as Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Sharpening his attack further, he said that after "vote chori" (vote theft), the BJP is now engaged in "satta chori" (stealing power) by bringing bills to "topple opposition governments within 30 days" and "destabilise democracy" by using arrest as a weapon.

"After vote theft, the BJP is now engaged in power theft. On the last day of Parliament, they brought three new bills, including a constitutional amendment, even though they do not have a two-thirds majority. 21... This takes away the right of citizens to form or remove their elected government and hands that power to institutions like the ED and CBI. This is like running a bulldozer over democracy," said Kharge.

He was addressing the newly-appointed presidents of the District Congress Committees (DCC) of Haryana and MP at the party headquarters.

The veteran leader said that the Government had introduced The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill during the recently concluded Parliament session despite it lacking the required two-third majority.

Kharge said that 193 opposition leaders were facing ED cases but only two had been convicted. "With this bill, the BJP can topple opposition governments within 30 days, using arrests as a weapon to destabilize democracy itself...," he added.

After TMC & SP, AAP says won't join House panel

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AFTER the two key members of the INDIA bloc– the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Samajwadi Party -- decided not to join the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probing three bills seeking the removal of the Prime Minister and chief ministers, AAP has also announced to follow suit.

AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Sunday announced the decision, adding that the law has nothing to do with fighting corruption but everything to do with horse-trading and crushing opposition parties.

The TMC, on Saturday, announced that it would not nominate any member to the JPC to look into the Constitution 130th Amendment Bill, and had called the panel a "farce". The Samajwadi Party is also unlikely to nominate any member to the JPC, according to a party source.

Male nurses face stigma but paid more: Study

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

NURSING is often considered a "female profession," leading to male nurses experiencing occupational segregation and stigma. But despite low numbers, male nurses earn more than their female counterparts.

"Although women constitute a larger share of the global nursing workforce, on average, men earn more than women, with a pay gap of 24% points, which needs attention," said a study published in the BMJ.

Focusing on the need to increase the nursing workforce, the study noted that with ageing populations, the rising burden of chronic diseases, demand for nurses is to continue rising.

"Empowering nurses is not just about tackling workforce shortages, it is also about unleashing the full potential of a profession that is central to realising universal health coverage for all," it said.

According to Dr. Preeti Kumar, the lead author of the study and VP, Health Systems, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), nursing has traditionally been associated with women, dating back to the times of Florence Nightingale. In India, male nurses are concentrated more in certain specialities, such as emergency departments and ICUs, with limited access or discouragement in other areas, including obstetrics and paediatrics, due to patient comfort and gender appropriateness, she said.

The need of the hour is to promote gender diversity and inclusivity. By 2030, India is projected to have a total of 2.74 million nurses and midwives, but only 1.4 million are likely to be actively working in the health system. India's nurse-to-population ratio is 1:670, which is below the WHO's recommendation of 1:300.

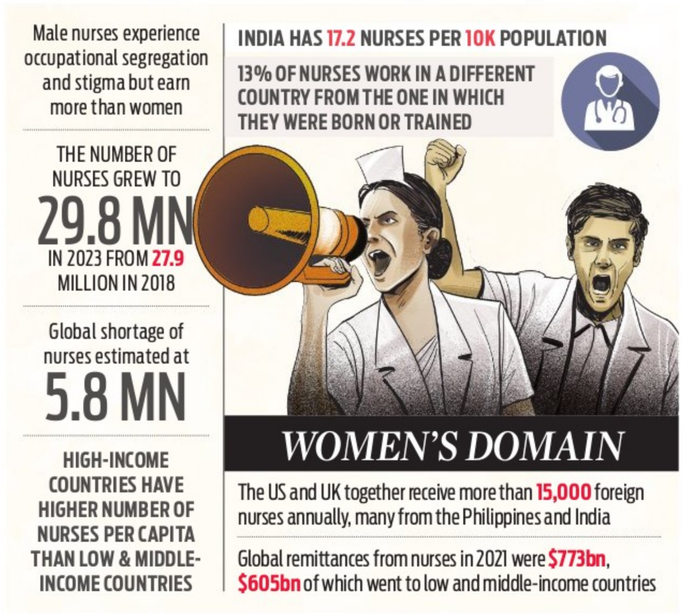
"Effective strategies to increase male participation include public awareness campaigns, balanced recruitment strategies, quotas for men in nursing education, and financial assistance," it said.

Quoting the 2025 report on the state of the world's nursing from the WHO and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), most low and middle-income countries are unlikely to meet their goals to achieve better healthcare outcomes by 2030.

The study highlighted that the migration of nursing professionals to high-income countries is a global challenge. Around 13% of nurses work in a country different from the one in which they were born or trained.

India has approved 157 new nursing colleges, with around 15,700 nurses graduating every year.

The study concluded that as digital innovation transforms healthcare, it is essential to ensure that these advances complement human-centred care.


Male nurses experience occupational segregation and stigma but earn more than women
THE NUMBER OF NURSES GREW TO 29.8 MN IN 2023 FROM 27.9 MILLION IN 2018
Global shortage of nurses estimated at 5.8 MN
HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES HAVE HIGHER NUMBER OF NURSES PER CAPITA THAN LOW & MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES
INDIA HAS 17.2 NURSES PER 10K POPULATION
13% OF NURSES WORK IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY FROM THE ONE IN WHICH THEY WERE BORN OR TRAINED
WOMEN'S DOMAIN
The US and UK together receive more than 15,000 foreign nurses annually, many from the Philippines and India
Global remittances from nurses in 2021 were $773bn, $605bn of which went to low and middle-income countries

After North, adverse weather triggers pest attack on cotton crops in S India

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AFTER North India, cotton crops in South India are now grappling with a severe pest outbreak triggered by abnormal weather, raising fears of reduced yields and further decline in the country's overall cotton production.

Prolonged monsoon spells and high humidity in August have led to a surge in "boll rot" disease across cotton fields in Andhra Pradesh. According to experts, this year's outbreak is more severe than in recent years, with scientists recommending integrated pest management practices advised by the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR).

A field survey under the government's Project Bandhan found "boll rot" thriving in moist conditions, damaging standing crops and raising concerns over yield loss, fibre quality deterioration and economic strain for Kharif 2025–26 growers. The survey was conducted by the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), Jodhpur, in collaboration with KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) Banavasi and confirmed widespread incidence in Kurnool and other cotton-growing areas of Rayalaseema.

Dr C D Mayee, cotton epidemiologist and president of SABC, said, "For the first time in a decade, the economic threshold level of boll rot has crossed the severe outbreak mark of 20% in Kurnool district." Mayee added that the disease has long been recognised as one of the most economically damaging for cotton in South-Central India.

Dr Dilip Monga, former head of ICAR-Central Institute For Cotton Research, noted that incessant rains have worsened boll rot severity, with leaf spot cases also rising in recent years. Farmers have been advised to adopt combined cultural practices, balanced crop nutrition, prophylactic measures and integrated pest management for sustainable control.

Andhra Pradesh contributes about 10% of India's cotton production, with Kurnool serving as a key hub. The outbreak comes just weeks after farmers in North India reported leafhopper (jassid) infestations in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

Adding to farmer distress, the Centre recently scrapped the 11% import duty on cotton, leading to cheaper imports from the US.

For the first time in a decade, the economic threshold level of boll rot has crossed the severe outbreak mark of 20% in Kurnool district

Dr C D Mayee, cotton epidemiologist

BLAZE

A Class III student was charred to death while three others were injured in a fire that broke out at the hostel of a government school in Arunachal's Shi-Yomi district on Sunday.

1 MAN STABBED TO DEATH BY WIFE'S LOVER IN UP'S SAHARANPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	29	25	Mumbai	27	26
Bhopal	26	23	Panaji	29	25
Jaipur	28	25	Patna	30	27
Amritsar	28	24	Lucknow	29	26
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	32	26	Imphal	27	21
Srinagar	24	17	Chandigarh	29	25

Cong leader exudes confidence about Oppn results in Bihar polls ● Patna Sahib MP Prasad accuses Cong, RJD of misleading public

Rahul: INDIA bloc united, common manifesto soon

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asserted that all the INDIA bloc constituents in Bihar were working unitedly for the upcoming assembly polls and that the results will be fruitful.

Speaking to reporters during his ongoing 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Araria district, where he was accompanied by RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Rahul said the alliance would soon release a common manifesto for the polls, due later this year. "All constituents of the Opposition are working unitedly. We are both ideologically and politically aligned, mutually respecting each other. The results would be fruitful," he said.

Launching a scathing attack on the ruling NDA, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha alleged that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar was an "institutionalised attempt" by the Election Commission to benefit the BJP. "The poll panel is working to help the saffron party. But it will not succeed as the people of Bihar are alert," he said.

Rahul also accused the BJP-RSS of "closing the doors of opportunity" for Dalits, backward classes, women and the poor, and of attempting to "destroy the Constitution."

LoP jokes about his marriage, says 'talks on'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday quipped that "talks are on" with RJD president Lalu Prasad, a political ally and family friend, regarding his earlier suggestion that the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha should get married. The 55-year-old made the remark at a press conference in Bihar's Araria during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'.

The Yatra, which began from Sasaram in Rohtas on August 17, entered Purnea district on Sunday, its eighth day. Rahul and Tejashwi rode motorcycles with supporters as residents turned out in large numbers to welcome them. Independent MP from Purnea Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, who recently merged his Jan Adhikar Party with Congress, also joined the tour.

Rahul said the Yatra was drawing people "organically," reflecting public anger over alleged attempts at vote theft. He noted that workers of alliance partners were coordinating at the grassroots, with RJD cadres carrying Congress flags and chanting his name, "something never seen before."

"One can imagine the impact of our yatra that even small kids are now raising the slogan of 'vote chor, gaddi chhor'," Gandhi added. Tejashwi had earlier claimed that the EC had "lost its credibility."

EC blamed after loss: BJP shreds 'vote theft' claim

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

FORMER union minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of spreading 'canards' and making baseless 'vote theft' allegations against his party.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters, Prasad said that in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Samajwadi Party won 37 seats in Uttar Pradesh, while BJP won 33, and Congress six.

"Even in that election, the Election Commission was the same. If people vote for them, then the Commission is fine, but if they lose, then the Commission is bad—how can this logic work?" he asked.

He also cited the case of Maharashtra, where Congress won 13 seats, BJP and Shiv Sena 9 each, and NCP 8. "Was not the same Election Commission there too?" he asked. He added that Congress also formed governments in Himachal Pradesh and Telangana, asking whether the EC was only valid when the Congress won. Prasad said, "If the people do not vote for Rahul Gandhi, what can anyone do? In Haryana, Delhi, and Maharashtra assembly elections, BJP won because the people saw through his lies." He accused Gandhi of consistently attacking constitutional institutions by making shameless allegations. "Today it is the Election Commission, earlier it was 'Chowkidar Chor Hai", he remarked.

He claimed that Gandhi was targeting the Election Commission, media, the Prime Minister—everyone but he must understand that he could not say anything he wanted and expected the country to simply tolerate it."

Prasad further said that in Bihar, Gandhi was trying to mislead people by levelling baseless allegations. He alleged that Tejashwi Yadav's language against Prime Minister was unacceptable. "The people of this country have elected Narendra Modi as Prime Minister thrice. Tejashwi must apologise for calling the Prime Minister a liar and advised him to be careful not to adopt Gandhi's ways under his influence," he asserted.

Bihar SIR: ECI says docus of 98% electors received

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday announced that documents of 98.2% electors had been received by electoral officers, even though eight days are still left for people and political parties to file their claims and objections to the draft electoral roll of Bihar, published as part of the SIR of the state's voters' list. Between June 24 and August 24, in 60 days, 98.2% people submitted their documents.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

Grand memorial for Shibu Soren in Ranchi

A grand memorial dedicated to 'Dishom Guru' late Shibu Soren is set to come up in Ranchi, with the Urban Development Department initiating the process of land allotment for the project. The Jharkhand State Housing Board has been directed to identify a suitable plot along the bypass road in Ranchi, one of the city's busiest stretches. According to officials, land in Bhusur Mauza has emerged as the preferred site. The Housing Board had earlier acquired 59.13 acres here from the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) for an integrated housing scheme. A portion of this land—around four acres—is now being considered for the memorial.

JPSC gets flak for holding back cut-off marks

The Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) has once again come under scrutiny for failing to release the cut-off marks of candidates declared successful in the 11th to 13th Civil Services Examinations. This is the second time that the results were published without disclosing the cut-off, in clear violation of the commission's own transparency rules. According to the commission's transparency guidelines issued in 2015, the marks of both successful and unsuccessful candidates must be made public. Despite these clear provisions, the JPSC has not yet uploaded the required details for the 11th to 13th Civil Services Examinations.

J'khand ATS extradites gangster from Azerbaijan

In a first such operation in the state's history, Jharkhand's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has achieved a major breakthrough with the extradition of gangster Mayank Singh, also known as Sunil Meena, from Baku, Azerbaijan. Singh, who faces nearly 50 criminal cases in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and other states, was flown to Ranchi and was produced in a Ramgarh court. Investigators believe Singh played a crucial role as a connecting link between jailed gangster Aman Sahu and the Lawrence Bishnoi network, strengthening ties between the two groups even from behind bars. Officials emphasised that this extradition marks a significant step.

BJP says Aadhaar alone can't give voting rights; Rahul slams EC

PARVEZ SULTAN & RAMASHANKAR @ New Delhi/Patna

THE BJP on Sunday accused the Opposition of indulging in propaganda after the Supreme Court said that voters excluded during the ongoing SIR exercise in Bihar can submit Aadhaar along with other documents, asserting that the Supreme Court did not say Aadhaar alone can be a valid document to get voting rights.

Aadhaar is only a proof of identity and residence and does not establish citizenship, BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said on X. "It is amusing to see the various interpretations of the Supreme Court's order dated Aug 22 in ADR vs ECI case, particularly with respect to Aadhaar... Nowhere in the judgment does the Supreme Court even suggest, let alone direct, that Aadhaar should be used as a valid document for SIR," Malviya wrote on 'X'.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, during his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Araria district of Bihar, said SIR in Bihar was an "institutionalised attempt" by the Election Commission to benefit the BJP. "The poll panel is working to help the saffron party. But it will not succeed as the people of Bihar are alert," he said.

Farmers wearing Shibu Soren masks protest RIMS-2 project

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND police on Sunday resorted to light force and tear gas shells to disperse the farmers protesting against the construction of Ranjendra Institute of Medical Sciences-2 (RIMS-2) on agricultural land, wearing masks of 'Dishom Guru' Shibu Soren.

Despite heavy police deployment, the protesting farmers, most of them tribal men and women, wearing the mask of Shibu Soren, reached the proposed site of RIMS-2 through the footpaths of the fields and ensured ploughing and planted saplings as per the pre-determined 'Hal Joto-Ropa Ropo' programme.

Thousands of farmers from far-flung areas, including, Latehar, Lohardaga, Bijupada, Hatma and Bedon joined the movement to save their agricultural land. The administration fired tear gas shells to drive away the villagers who had reached at the proposed site for RIMS-2 at Nagri, but this did not affect the farmers as they kept on ploughing their land and planting the saplings.

"Prohibitory orders have been imposed in the entire area. When the crowd became uncontrolled and tried to create ruckus and enter the restricted area, police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. The situation is now under control and the police is monitoring the situation," said Ranchi Rural SP Praveen Pushkar. Meanwhile, the farmers blocked the Ring Road for quite some time due to which hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the road for several hours, till the blockade ended by six in the evening.

In anticipation of these protests, Ranchi police placed ex-CM and BJP leader Champai Soren under house arrest on Sunday morning to prevent public disorder. Authorities formally cited law and order concerns for the precautionary detention. Several other tribal leaders were also taken into custody ahead of the 'Hal Joto-Ropa Ropo' programme.

Soren, however, called the move as undemocratic, emphasising that his objection was not to RIMS-2 per se but to its placement on tribal land. He reiterated his demand that the project be elsewhere. The BJP denounced the arrest as authoritarian overreach, labelling it "outright dictatorship" by the state administration.

According to local villagers, no construction has been done on the land acquired for RIMS-2 for a long time, so they have a natural claim on the land.

Police resorted to mild force and fired teargas shells to disperse farmers protesting against land acquisition for the construction of a medical college| EXPRESS

J&K recruitment exam for junior engineers cancelled amid SSB paper leak row

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE OMR-based written exam for Junior Engineer (Electrical) posts in Jammu and Kashmir was marred by a controversy on Sunday after shocking purported videos emerged from an examination centre in Srinagar — showing candidates openly using mobile phones and solving questions in groups and allegations of paper leak.

After massive outrage, Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) cancelled the examination. The recruitment for JE (Electrical) posts in J&K is being held after nearly a decade, and thousands of candidates appeared for the exam at multiple centres across the Union Territory.

However, as the examination began in the morning, shocking videos began circulating on social media from one of the centres (Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh) in Srinagar. In the videos, aspirants were seen using mobile phones inside the examination hall and discussing answers in groups. Adding to the chaos were allegations of a paper leak.

Aspirants seen using phones inside exam hall

However, as the exam began in the morning, shocking videos began circulating on social media from one of the centres in Srinagar. In the videos, aspirants were seen using mobile phones inside the examination hall and discussing answers in groups. Adding to the chaos were allegations of a paper leak.

Some candidates claimed the question paper had been accessed before the exam officially started. "At around 10:47 am, we were handed the OMR sheets. About 5-6 minutes later, when some had already started going through the paper, an official came in and announced that the exam was postponed due to heavy rain in Jammu," said one candidate at the Kothibagh centre. He alleged many students walked out with the paper. "Outside, groups began solving the questions using Google and other platforms on their phones."

The candidate alleged that after nearly more than an hour, they were told to return to the exam hall and write the exam.

Experts flag constructions in fragile fault line

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

AS Uttarakhand reels from recurring natural calamities, geologists have sounded a strong warning against large-scale construction along the Main Central Thrust (MCT) — a fragile Himalayan fault line identified as a key driver of disasters.

The caution comes as the Centre prepares to send a high-level team to assess the damage caused by heavy rainfall and landslides. Experts say the MCT, a 5 to 10 kilometre wide zone stretching across regions such as Uttarkashi, is geologically unstable. "Large construction in the MCT zone should be avoided, and ideally prohibited, as the region is inherently brittle," said a senior geologist.

Recent disasters like the Bhatwari land submergence and the formation of a lake in the Yamuna River at Syana Chatti due to debris from Kupda Khadd have been linked to MCT activity. Similar phenomena were seen earlier when Tail Gad debris blocked the Bhagirathi River between Dharali and Harsil.

Professor M P S Bisht, a senior geologist and head of Geology at Garhwal University, explained that Kupda Khadd's upper catchment remains landslide-prone due to the MCT's friction zones. "During heavy rainfall, debris from these weakened rocks cascades into valleys, triggering disasters," he said, citing historic incidents like the Belakuchi floods of 1970 and the creation of Gona Tal lakes in 1893 and 1970.

Meanwhile, the Central government has constituted a seven-member team to conduct on-site inspections. The state Disaster Management Department, on the directive of the Chief Secretary, is preparing a detailed proposal for submission to the Centre.

Secretary (Disaster Management) Vinod Kumar Suman said the team will assess the affected areas.

DISASTER IN WAITING
GEOLOGISTS WARN AGAINST MAJOR CONSTRUCTION ON SENSITIVE MCT FAULT LINES
Experts demand ban on construction in sensitive Himalayan regions now
Main Central Thrust zone is highly vulnerable to natural disasters
Uttarakhand faces disasters due to fragile Himalayan fault line zones
Central team to assess damage in Uttarakhand's disaster-hit areas soon

7,300 Mussoorie forest pillars go missing: Officer

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A senior forest officer has called for a probe into the disappearance of 7,375 boundary pillars from the Mussoorie Forest Division in Uttarakhand, according to an official letter.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Action Plan) Sanjeev Chaturvedi, in a letter to the head of the Uttarakhand Forest Department PCCF Sameer Sinha, sought a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, accusing officials of collusion in illegal land occupation and mining.

DFO Mussoorie Amit Kanwar said the missing pillars were identified in a survey covering two districts - Tehri and Dehradun in six ranges and 33 beats, and an FIR will be filed.

Indian-origin truck driver facing homicide charges in US denied bond

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A 28-year-old Indian-origin truck driver, Harjinder Singh, accused of making an illegal U-turn that killed three people in Florida on August 12, was denied bond on Saturday.

Harjinder, who hails from the Rataul village in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab, had reportedly entered the US in 2018 via Mexico through the 'donkey route'. He was arrested six days after the accident at his California home and is now lodged in the St Lucie County Jail in Florida. He faces three counts of vehicular homicide and could be sentenced to around 50 years in prison. His next court hearing is slated for August 27.

Meanwhile, his family back home in Rataul are hoping for a lighter punishment. His brother Tejinder Singh admitted that Harjinder had made a grave mistake but stressed that it was just an accident and not a deliberate act. "We are sorry for the three deaths in the accident," he expressed, reiterating that he should face the law but be handed a lenient sentence, given it was an accident.

Truckers' visa woes

Meanwhile, Bathinda MP and SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal has expressed concern over the US' decision to stop issuing worker visas for commercial truck drivers. "Punjabi and Sikh drivers make up 20% of the US trucking industry," she noted while decrying the move.

Dilbagh Singh, another one of Harjinder's relatives, echoed those sentiments, saying, "He is just 28 years old. You can imagine what our condition will be if he gets around 45 years of jail. Dilbagh has appealed to Sikh bodies to come forward and provide assistance to Harjinder. Support for him has been pouring in from different quarters, as a controversial online petition calling for his release has garnered over two million signatures.

Meanwhile, Bathinda MP and SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal has urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to ensure counsellor access to Harjinder. She also expressed concern over Washington's decision to stop issuing worker visas for commercial truck drivers. The move, part of the Trump administration's efforts to clamp down on foreign workers, has raised many eyebrows as it comes hot on the heels of the crash involving Harjinder.

"Punjabi and Sikh drivers make up 20% of the US trucking industry. Any mass-level action against them would have a detrimental effect on trucking families and would be discriminatory in nature," she noted.

76 captives
held in 'bandit' camp rescued by Nigeria military

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	23	SNY	Los Angeles	27	17	SNY
Colombo	31	27	LC	Melbourne	16	6	SNY
Dhaka	32	27	LR	Moscow	28	16	LC
Dubai	44	35	SNY	New York	32	22	SNY
Houston	35	26	SNY	Singapore	34	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	23	SNY	Toronto	29	15	LC
London	30	19	TDS	Washington	36	25	SNY

JOINT DRILLS

Kim Jong Un supervises firing of new anti-air missiles

SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of two types of new antiair missiles, state media said Sunday, displaying his expanding military capabilities as the South Korean and US militaries carry out joint drills.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the test Saturday proved the missiles effective in countering aerial threats such as drones and cruise missiles, and that Kim assigned unspecified "important" tasks to defense scientists ahead of a major political conference expected early next year. The report did not specify the missiles that were tested or where the event took place. It did not mention any remarks by Kim directed at Washington or Seoul.

The test coincided with new South Korean President Lee Jae Myung 's trip to Tokyo for a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, where they vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and their trilateral partnership with the United States to address common challenges, including North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Lee was to depart for Washington on Sunday for a summit with US President Donald Trump.

Kim's government has repeatedly dismissed calls by Seoul and Washington to restart longstalled negotiations aimed at winding down his nuclear weapons and missiles programs, as he continues to prioritise Russia as part of a foreign policy aimed at expanding ties with nations confronting the United States.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kim has sent thousands of troops and large shipments of weapons, including artillery and ballistic missiles, to help fuel President Vladimir Putin's warfighting. *AP*

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, supervises the test-firing of two types of new anti-air missiles at undisclosed location, North Korea| AP

Ukraine marks I-Day amid Russian strikes, Carney visit

Fires broke out at energy facilities in Kursk and Leningrad regions, including a nuclear plant, as Canadian PM pledged $1.5 bn military aid, support

KYIV

RUSSIA accused Ukraine Sunday of launching drone attacks that sparked a fire at a nuclear power plant in its western Kursk region overnight, as Ukraine celebrated 34 years since its independence.

Russian officials said several power and energy facilities were targeted in the overnight strikes. The fire at the nuclear facility was quickly extinguished with no injuries reported, according to the plant's press service on Telegram. While the attack damaged a transformer, radiation levels remained within normal ranges.

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog said it was aware of media reports that a transformer at the plants had caught fire "due to military activity," but hadn't received independent confirmation. It said its director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said that "every nuclear facility must be protected at all times." Ukraine did not immediately comment on the alleged attack.

Firefighters also responded to a blaze at the port of Ust-Luga in Russia's Leningrad region, home to a major fuel export terminal. The regional governor said approximately 10 Ukrainian drones were shot down, with debris igniting the fire.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed its air defenses intercepted 95 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory overnight into Sunday.

Russia fired 72 drones and decoys, along with a cruise missile, into Ukraine overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's air force said. Of these, 48 drones were shot down or jammed.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, right, shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine | AP

The incidents occurred as Ukraine marked independence day, commemorating its 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy delivered remarks in a video address from Kyiv's Independence Square, emphasizing the nation's resolve. "We are building a Ukraine that will have enough strength and power to live in security and peace," Zelenskyy said, calling for a "just peace."

"What our future will be is up to us alone," he said, in a nod to the US–Russia summit in Alaska earlier in August, which many feared would leave Ukrainian and European interests sidelined.

"And the world knows this. And the world respects this. It respects Ukraine. It perceives Ukraine as an equal," he said.

US special envoy Keith Kellogg was in attendance at independence day celebrations in Kyiv, during which Zelenskyy awarded him the Ukrainian Order of Merit, of the 1st degree.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney arrived in Kyiv on Sunday morning for meetings with Zelenskyy. "On this special day — Ukraine's Independence Day — it is especially important for us to feel the support of our friends. And Canada has always stood by our side," wrote Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff. In a joint press conference with Zelenskyy, Carney said Canada will invest 2 billion Canadian dollars ($1.5 billion) in new military assistance for Ukraine to boost its army and provide urgently needed weapons. *AP*

Israeli strikes hit Yemen's capital, targeting Houthis

CAIRO

ISRAELI airstrikes hit Yemen's capital on Sunday, just days after the Houthi rebels fired a missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the rebels had fired at it since 2023.

The Iranian-backed Houthis said the strikes hit multiple areas across Sanaa. The Houthi-run health ministry said that at least two people were killed and 35 others were wounded.

The rebels' Al-Masirah satellite television reported a strike on an oil company, and video on social media showed a fireball erupting there. Israel's military said it struck the Asar and Hizaz power plants, calling them "a significant electricity supply facility for military activities," along with a military site where the presidential palace is located. Sanaa residents told The Associated Press they heard loud explosions close to a closed military academy and the presidential palace. They said they could see plumes of smoke near Sabeen Square, a central gathering place in the capital.

"The sounds of explosions were very strong," said Hussein Mohamed, who lives close to the presidential palace. Ahmed al-Mekhlafy said he felt the sheer force of the strikes. "The house was rocked, and the windows were shattered," he told the AP by phone. The Houthis have launched missiles and drones toward Israel and targeted ships in the Red Sea for over 22 months, saying they are attacking in solidarity with Palestinians amid the war in Gaza. Nasruddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office, claimed the latest airstrikes won't deter the rebels, and vowed to continue attacks on Israel.

"Our military operations supporting Gaza won't stop, God willing, unless the aggression is stopped, and the siege is lifted," he wrote on social media.

The Israeli strikes were the first to hit Yemen since a week ago, when Israel said it targeted energy infrastructure it believed was used by the rebels.

The latest strikes follow the Houthis' claim of launching a newly equipped missile toward Israel on Friday, including targeting the country's largest airport, Ben Gurion. There was no reported damage or injuries. Israel's military said it fragmented mid-air after several interception attempts. *AP*

Dhaka presses Pak on 1971 war apology during Ishaq Dar visit

DHAKA

BANGLADESH on Sunday raised pending issues, including an apology for the 1971 war, with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who is the most senior leader from his country to visit Dhaka since 2012.

Dar, who arrived in Dhaka on Saturday on a two-day visit aimed at rebuilding ties with Bangladesh following the ouster of longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina, held talks with the interim government's Foreign Adviser M Touhid Hossain. 'We have raised unresolved issues such as an apology or expression of regret for 1971, claims over assets, and the matter of stranded Pakistani citizens (with Dar),' Hossain told reporters after talks with Dar. It would be wrong to expect problems of 54 years to be solved in a single day, he said. "Both countries have presented their respective positions on these issues," the foreign adviser said at a press conference. Dar, who is also the deputy prime minister, said the unsettled issues over 1971 were resolved twice — first in 1974 in tri-partite talks involving New Delhi in India. Later, the then president Pervez Musharraf settled the issues of genocide again during his Dhaka visit when he talked in public with an open mind,' Dar added.

One agreement and five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed between the two countries, the Bangladeshi foreign adviser said. Hossain said both countries have agreed that to move bilateral relations forward, historical issues must be resolved through discussion. This is not the first time that Dhaka has raised the pending 1971 issues with Pakistan. In April, in the first foreign secretary-level talks in 15 years, Bangladesh had asked Pakistan to resolve unsettled historical issues and settle pre-independence asset sharing. *PTI*

4 DEAD AS ISRAELI FORCES OPENS FIRE NEAR AID SITE IN GAZA

Smoke rises to the sky following an Israeli military strike in Gaza City, Sunday | AFP

DEIR AL-BALAH

ISRAELI forces shot dead four Palestinian aid-seekers traveling Sunday through a military zone south of Gaza City that is regularly used to reach a food distribution point, a hospital and witnesses said. Gaza City is in famine after 22 months of war, while Israel's military moves ahead with a planned offensive to seize the city, perhaps within days. Israel's defense minister has warned that the city of hundreds of thousands of people could be destroyed.

Al-Awda Hospital and two witnesses told The Associated Press the Palestinians were killed when troops opened fire on a crowd heading to a site run by the Israeli-backed U.S. contractor Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in the Netzarim corridor area, hundreds of meters (yards) from the site.

"The gunfire was indiscriminate," said Mohamed Abed, a father of two from the Bureij refugee camp.

Abed and Aymed Sayyad, another aid-seeker, said troops opened fire when a group near the front of the crowd pushed toward the site before its scheduled opening. Sayyad said he and others helped two people wounded by gunshots.

"This incident didn't occur near our site nor as described," the GHF said in an email. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Gaza's Health Ministry reported another eight malnutrition-related deaths Sunday, including a child. That brings the total number of malnutrition-related deaths during the war to 289, with 115 of them children. *AP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 689

TOLL SO FAR
62,686

Sudanese return to ruined homes after army retakes Khartoum

KHARTOUM

ALL that remains of Afaf al-Tayeb's home in Sudan's Khartoum province is a charred, windowless structure with peeling paint — yet in June, she eagerly returned, feeling safe again for the first time since the Sudanese army said it retook the capital from the rival Rapid Support Forces.

Al-Tayeb had been displaced with her son Mohamed al-Khedr and their family at least four times since the civil war in the North African nation broke out over two years ago. They were displaced in different areas in Khartoum, yet nothing has ever felt as comforting as their house in the Al-Qawz district of Khartoum City. She misses the photographs of her parents and late husband which were lost when her home was damaged by fire in March, along with all her other possessions. The loss of her home left her in tears and deep sorrow, she told The Associated Press. The family was first displaced to the Hilaliya area, in Gezira province, taking nothing but the clothes they were wearing, until the RSF made advances in the province and forced them to return to Al-Qawz. Al-Tayeb said RSF fighters then expelled her and her family, and they had to flee to east Khartoum onto Shendi and then Om Durman city. "They looked very strange — indescribable — and their appearance was frightening," she said of the RSF fighters who raided her home. Al-Tayeb and her son are among roughly 1.2 million people who returned to Sudan between December 2024 and May this year, according to the latest estimates by the International Organisation for Migration.

The UN's refugee agency says more than 12 million people have been forcibly displaced since the current conflict began in April 2023, with 3.2 million Sudanese seeking refuge in neighboring countries. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby given notice that our client is intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owners (1) Smt. Mumtaz Begum W/o. Chand pasha, (2). Mohammed Ziaulla, (3) Jameel Pasha, (4). Shakeel Pasha, (5). Kaleem Pasha, (6) Mohammed Faziulla, all children of late Chand Pasha, residing at No. 1/30, 7th Cross, Pipe lane, Mysore Road, Bengaluru- 560026. In the event any one has any objection or claim over the Schedule Property they may file the same with documentary proof before the under signed within **15 days** from the date of this notice failing which our client shall proceed with the transaction as if no such claim or objection subsists.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.1, (old No.11) having EPID No. 1177280230, Ward No. 136, measuring East to West 25 feet North to South 12 feet totally measuring 310.7 square feet, together with building constructed thereon, having built up area of 3344 Sq.ft consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor, situated at Mysore Road, 7th Cross, presently Vinayaknagar Badavane, Haleguddadahalli, Bengaluru.

East By : Site No. 13, **West by** : 7th Cross, **North by** : 30 feet road, **South by** : Site No. 12,

Address for Service: **Mr. P. Usman,** Advocate
Usman Law Chambers
No.46, Sadath Center, 2nd Floor, Nandidurga, Bengaluru-560046. Mob: 9740085683.

LOST

I, **Smt. K.ANITHA, Aged about 53 years, W/o. C.Venu Gopal Reddy**, Residing at Flat No.C-8, Second Floor, 2nd Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Cholanayakanahalli, R.T Nagar Post, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 032, Karnataka, Aadhar Number: 7976 4153 7971, I have lost the document while shifting the residence, as a list of documents a) General Power of Attorney as Registered Document No. BLN-4-00192-2006-07, dated: 03.07.2006. b) Partition Deed as Registered Document No. GNR-1-01779-2012-13, dated: 10.12.2012. C) Partition Deed as Registered Document No.BLN-1-36082-2005-06, dated:21.03.2006. d) Exchange Deed as Registered Document No.BLN-1-05941-2006-07, dated:27.04.2006. e) Joint Development Deed as Registered Document No.BLN-1-20533-2006-07,dated: 03.07.2006. f) Mother Deed as Registered Document No.795/49-50, dated: 11.07.1949. g) Mother Deed as Registered Document No.615/1923-24, dt: 19.07.1923. In this connection a Police Complaint has been lodged and filed a Lost Report No.1756610/2025, dated: 18.08.2025, in this regard. Finders may please contact /return to the understanding within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr. S. Pavan Kumar** S/o. S. Suresh, Residing at No. #391, 2nd Floor, 5th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560027.

My client is the absolute owner in possession of the property bearing Village Panchayath No. 231/345/268, 231/345/268/1, PID No. 150300701600900035O, Sy.No. 20/4, measuring East to West 100 ft and North to South 50 ft, in all 5000 sq.ft, Situated at Sompura Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the:

East by : Road
West by : Property belonging to Shivarudraiah,
North by : Property belonging to C.G. Venkatesh,
South by : Police Station.

My client has lost the Original property Documents i.e., Registered Sale Deed bearing Doc.No. 8/1990-91, Registered Release Deed bearing Doc.No. 3052/2002-03 and Registered Gift Deed Doc.No. 10813/19-20.

The said property is in possession of Mr. S. Pavan Kumar since 2023; he is the absolute owner and free from all encumbrance whatsoever.

My Client had lost the above mentioned Sale Deeds & Gift Deed. Inspite of several efforts the Original Deeds are not found and he has lodged the police complaint through online dated 23.08.2025, Lost Report No. 1765686/2025.

If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned.

PREMA B DUBAE, Advocate
FFD VI, 4th Floor, Sampoorna Chambers, Vasavi Temple Road, V.V. Puram Bengaluru-560004.
080-42053588 / 080-42296969

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INDULGE
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

IN THE COURT OF THE 39th ADDL. DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & S.C. No. 216/2025

BETWEEN : Nipun Maniar, S/o Bhupendra Maniar, R/at Flat No.22, Rajigir Milap Juhu Dhara Complex, Kapaswadi, Versova Link Road, Andheri West, Mumbai-400 053.
Also at No.41, Inest Peninsula, Anekal Main Road, Iggaluru, Chandapura Post, Bengaluru-560 099.
...PETITIONER

AND : Nil ...RESPONDENT

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION NOTICE (U/o 5 Rule 20 of CPC)

WHEREAS the above Petitioner has filed the above Petition under Sec 276 & 278 of Indian Succession Act before this Hon'ble Court seeking for grant of Probate of the Regd. Will dated 1-5-2023 in favour of the Petitioner in respect of the Schedule properties lying in the name of the deceased Hema Paida, who died on 18-04-2024.

In this regard the general Public who are/is having any interest in the schedule properties may appear in person or through an Advocate duly authorized before this Hon'ble Court **on 24.09.2025 at 11 AM.** in default, this matter will be heard and disposed on Ex-Parte Order.

SCHEDULE

1. Savings Bank Account in HDFC Bank, Horamavu Branch, bearing A/c No. 02611000036988. Nominee registered Late Smt. Ruchira Padia along with Salary Statement- Tech Mahindra.
2. Fixed Deposit in HDFC Bank, Horamavu Branch bearing Customer ID. 6544920, Nominee registered Late Smt. Ruchira Padia.
3. LIC Policy bearing No. 619597580, Nominee registered Late Smt. Ruchira Padia.
4. Mutual Funds: through M/s Shriya Financial Services, AMFI Regd. Mutual Fund Distributor, Mumbai-Canara Robeco and State Bank of India.
5. Savings Bank Account in State Bank of India, Horamavu Branch.
6. Savings Bank Account in Bank of Baroda, Horamavu branch bearing No. 07640100012635 and PPF Account in Bank of Baroda, Horamavu Branch, bearing No. 0764PPF0000000001037, Nominee registered - Late Smt. Ruchira Padia.
7. NPS Statement bearing PRAN No. 401000585158.
8. Tech Mahindra Limited Final Settlement-Employee Code 562692.

Given under my hand and seal on this the 19.08.2025.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER

CCH-32 **Hearing date : 25/09/2025**
IN THE COURT OF THE XX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P & SC. No. 266/2025

Between : Smt. Nalini .S.C., Aged about 54 years, W/o. D. Devaraju, No. 1087, 42nd Cross, Near Lavakusha Park, Kumaraswamy Layout, 1st Stage, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore - 560078.
...Petitioner

And : -NIL- ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the Petitioner above named has made Petition to this court under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Sri. Gangadharappa, G. and the above named testator have executed will infavour of petitioner on 06/08/2003 the testator is the uncle of the petitioner herein who expired on 16/05/2012.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by Pleader duly instructed **on 25th September 2025 at 11.00 A.M,** inform to show cause against the petitioner falling wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of EWS Site bearing No.112, in Block-I, Sir M. Visveshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore, measuring East to West 06 Meters and North to South 09 Meters, totally measuring 54 Sq.Mtrs. Or 581.25 Sq.Ft., bounded on: **East by :** Site No.111, **West by :** Site No. 113, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Other's Property.

Given under my hand the seal of the Court this 20.08.2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Address for Service : **Madhu .M.V**
MRS Associates
No. 102, 1st Floor, Ahuja Chambers, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Mobile: 9844166991

Kerala State IT Mission (KSITM)
Department of Electronics & Information Technology
Government of Kerala
Saankethika, Vrindavan Gardens, Near EPF Office, Pattom P. O
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695004, Tel: 0471 2525444

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Ref. No: e-Governan/2/2025-KSITM **Date: 22.08.2025**

Kerala State IT Mission invites Request for Proposal for the Selection of Agency for the Development and Implementation of Integrated WhatsApp & Chatbot Solution

Proposals shall be accepted only through online at https://etenders.kerala.gov.in and no manual submission of the same will be entertained. RFP document may be downloaded from https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgep/app

Last date of proposal submission: 18th September 2025

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	45359630000932 & 45359410000741	1) Mr. Bogananjunda, 2) Mrs. Bhagya	12.06.2025 Rs.5,53,892.35 (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two and Thirty Five Paisa Only) due as on 10-06-2025	Date: 21-08-2025 Time: 02:35 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel the for property E-Khatha No.152900202200200806, Khaneshumari No.670/567, measuring, East to West 8.8392 meters and North to South 14.6304 meters, situated at Nallahalli Village, Nallahalli Dhakle and Grama Panchayath, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Block, Ramnagara District and **Bounded by: East:** House belongs to Nanjaiah, S/o. Srikantagowda, **West:** Remaining Same property, **North:** Remaining Same property, **South:** K.Doddalahalli, Mullahalli Main Road.			
2	47059630000058 & 47059410000176	1) Mr. Sunil D P, 2) Mrs. Rathnamma B	17.06.2025 Rs.4,47,880.14 (Rupees Four Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and Fourteen Paisa Only) due as on 12-06-2025	Date: 21-08-2025 Time: 12:30 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Khaneshumari No.22/18/2, E-Khatha No.152900200600200026, measuring East to West 6.40 meter and North to South 15 meter, situated at at Doddakalbalu Village, Kottagalu Grama Panchayath, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Mrs. Mahadevamma, **West by:** House belongs to Mrs. Sowbhagyamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Mrs. Sowbhagyamma.			
3	47059630000200 & 47059410000291	1) Mrs. Lakshmi V, 2) Mr. Mr. Venkatamadu C	16.06.2025 Rs.5,99,520.55 (Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty and Fifty Five Paisa Only) due as on 12-06-2025	Date: 21-08-2025 Time: 01:55 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khaneshumari Sl.No.240, Assessment/ Property No.182, measuring East to West 38 feet and North to South 58 feet totally measuring 2204 sq.feet, situated at Channasandra Village, Hookunda Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramaragra District and **Bounded as follows:** East-West 11.56 meter, North to South 17.610 meters, Total measurement: 204.34 meters. **East by:** Land belongs to Biligowda, **West by:** Vacant Site belongs to Bhimegowda, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Land Belongs to Bhommegowd.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural | **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 25.08.2025 | **For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

Income tax return filing tips for freelancers

While tax slabs are same as for salaried employees, freelancers can't claim standard deduction of ₹50,000

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

CONSULTANTS and freelancers face a slightly different set of rules while filing their income tax returns (ITR) compared to salaried employees. Here are some key points to ensure error-free and compliant filing.

Choosing the right ITR form

Professionals earning consultancy or freelancing income are required to file ITR Form 3. Those opting for presumptive taxation scheme under Section 44ADA must file ITR Form 4 (Sugam). Under ITR 3, taxpayers must prepare a profit and loss account as well as a balance sheet. Filing an incorrect form can render the return defective or invalid.

ITR 4 can't be used where income exceeds ₹50 lakh, losses are carried forward, foreign-sourced income is reported, or taxpayer qualifies as a non-resident. In such cases, ITR 3 must be filed. For FY25, deadline for filing ITR is September 15. If a tax audit under Section 44AB is applicable, due date extends to October 31,with audit report to be filed by September 30, 2025.

Presumptive taxation scheme

Section 44ADA allows notified professionals such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, technical consultants, and interior designers to declare 50% of gross receipts as taxable income. Those with income above ₹75 lakh per annum can't avail this benefit. No deductions against business expenses are permitted when opting for this scheme.

Tax regime considerations

Consultants have limited flexibility when switching tax regimes. Once the new regime is chosen, a switch back to the old regime is allowed only once in a lifetime. After reverting, opting for new regime again is not permitted. From FY24, new regime has become default, though taxpayers can opt out of it.

While tax slabs are same as for salaried employees, freelancers can't claim standard deduction of ₹50,000. They may, however, claim deductions under Chapter VI- A (such as 80C, 80D, and 80E), but only under the old tax regime.

Maintaining records

Freelancers should maintain records of receipts and payments, bank statements, asset and liability details, capital gains, and expenses. Form 26AS, which captures TDS, must be reconciled with actual income. If receipts show ₹10 lakh but Form 26AS reflects ₹8 lakh, discrepancy must be resolved to avoid rejection of returns and loss of refunds.

Reporting other incomes

Earnings from shares, securities, or virtual digital assets must be disclosed. Non-disclosure or under-reporting could invite scrutiny and penalties.

Section 69 exposure

As per Gaurav Makhijani, senior tax advisor at Roedl & Partner, even under presumptive scheme — where detailed books of accounts are not mandatory—freelancers remain exposed to Section 69 (unexplained investments). If investments or expenditures appear disproportionate to declared income and remain unexplained, tax authorities may treat them as undisclosed income. Such income is taxable at a penal rate of 60% plus surcharge and cess under Section 115BBE, with no deductions or set-offs allowed.

Makhijani said disclosures in ITR-4 including high-value transactions reflected in AIS/26AS or assets reported in Schedule AL, where applicable must align with presumptive income declared. Any mismatch between declared income and reported financial activity could invite additions under Section 69.

IN CONVERSATION

PRASHANT PARAMESWARAN
President, Tata Soulfull

'Aim is to mainstream millets by making them taste better'

KOTTARAM Agro Foods, co-founded by Prashant Parameswaran, introduced millet-based food products under the brand "Soulfull" in 2013. In 2021, the brand was acquired by Tata Consumer Products. Since then, Soulfull has scaled up to the level it had aspired to before becoming part of Tata group. **Prashant Parameswaran**, President, Tata Soulfull, speaks to **Dipak Mondal** of *The New Indian Express* about the brand's journey under the Tatas. **Excerpts**:

It has been four-and-half years since Tatas acquired Soulful. How has been the journey so far?
The partnership was about scaling Soulfull, entering multiple new categories, and building on the millet platform. Most importantly, it was about mainstreaming millets and taking them across the length and breadth of the country. Those were the clear objectives we set for ourselves four-and-a-half years ago.

Whatever was purpose of this acquisition by Tata Consumer Products, have they been able to achieve those targets?
Yes, directionally we are moving in right direction. You may not achieve every single metric, but in three-, five-, or 10-year plans, what matters is whether you are on right path. I would say we are.

Why was a millet-based product company so important for Tata Consumer Products, which is itself such a big brand?
It's not just about millets. Soulfull was about health and wellness — less sugar, "better-for-you" products, and affordability. We were never going to be a niche brand for only top 1% in metros. The idea was to create relevance for 200–300 million households. That's why the platform was valuable.

What strategies have you adopted to reach those households?
We focus on three things: Product – Food must combine taste and nutrition. Taste is **non-negotiable. Price points** – India needs affordable entry packs (₹5, ₹10) that let consumers try the brand without diluting quality. **Accessibility** – Availability across states, retail, and multiple touchpoints. We use a multi-pronged category approach—breakfast cereals, kids' snacking, wafers, choco sticks, rusk, masala oats, and more. We're not a one-product company but a portfolio serving different consumer segments.

The partnership was about scaling Soulfull, entering multiple new categories, and building on millet platform. It was about mainstreaming millets

What scale have you achieved since the acquisition? Can you share revenue numbers?
We are about five times larger than at the time of acquisition. The foundation we have built ensures we can keep doubling every two-four years. We don't disclose segmental revenues. Whatever is available publicly is under "growth businesses".

How do you see consumer acceptance of millet-based products, especially with the government push?
Taste is paramount in India. Millets have distinctive flavors (ragi, jowar, bajra), and our expertise lies in using food science and technology to retain nutrition while making them palatable without artificial ingredients. For example, our new Nomada Rusk blends millets with flavors like cardamom and butter to suit consumer tastes.

So, people are liking the products?
Yes. We are in the food business, not pharmaceuticals. Success depends on repeat consumption and loyal customers, which we are seeing.

Are you focused only on the domestic market? What new launches are you planning?
Predominantly yes, though we also have a significant presence in the West Asia, mainly among the Indian diaspora. We have entered many categories in the past two years. Now, the focus is scaling them. For example, the rusk market is about ₹6,000 crore. We've just entered with Nomada Rusk, launched in states like Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, with Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, and South India to follow.

MONEY-WISE

INVESTING IN EQUITY FOR THE LONG TERM

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

MANY people have this question at the top of their minds, whether they should invest in equities or in equities through mutual funds.

As of today (Aug 2025), domestic market presents a compelling case for long-term investors, despite short-term volatility and elevated valuations. Nifty 50 closed at 24,870.10 on August 22. Earlier in the week, the index hovered above 25,050, reflecting a mixed performance driven by global cues and domestic earnings. Year-to-date, MSCI India Index has underperformed, posting negative returns while global peers gained up to 18.9%, highlighting concerns over high valuations and external risks. For horizons of 5-10 years or more, India's structural strengths outweigh these headwinds.

Economically, India remains a bright spot globally. The OECD projects real GDP growth at 6.3% for FY26 and 6.4% for FY27, powered by strengthening private consumption and government capex. Our balance of payments, current account deficit, etc. remain healthy and robust. Private sector balance sheets are not leveraged at all. Long-term drivers include a young demographic, digital transformation via UPI and Aadhaar, and policy reforms like PLI boosting manufacturing.

Sectors like technology, and infrastructure are poised for multi-year expansion, with economists noting "imminent recovery" and compelling opportunities in emerging markets equity. Medical tourism has taken the hospital shares to a different orbit.

Valuations provide a nuanced picture. Nifty 50's price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio stands at 21.9 as of August 22, slightly above long-term average of about 18-20 but far from bubble territory. This elevation reflects optimism in earnings growth, projected at 15-18% annually over next few years. Compared to historical corrections, current levels suggest room for mean reversion, offering value for patient investors. Experts emphasise India's resilience amid global slowdowns, with digital booms and economic stability creating "compelling bets" for 2025 and beyond. A market that has remained at a PE of 20 for past 8 years (ignore Covid fall) has been robust and should current PE is not scary at all.

Risks can't be ignored. Geopolitical tensions, potential US rate hikes, and domestic inflation (4%) could trigger corrections. Recent market dips, underscore volatility from FII outflows and overbought conditions. Some investors warn of possible crashes tied to global events, advising diversification. Yet, historical data shows equities delivering 12-15% CAGR over decades.

For long-term investors, now is a prudent time to invest via SIPs in diversified funds or blue-chips as recommended by analysts. One aqnalyst argues it's "strategically sound" for quality positions, emphasising discipline over timing. Investment sentiment echoes this, with users promoting ETFs like Nifty Bees for safe, long-term growth. While short-term caution is warranted, growth trajectory makes equities a strong wealth-builder. Focus on fundamentals, diversify, and stay invested—time in the market beats timing it.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY COMMON SENSE MATTERS IN INVESTING

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE goalpost for the use of common sense in investing shifts with time. It has a direct correlation with the prevailing knowledge and financial innovation. In the old times, people saved on physical assets like precious metals or jewellery. It was common sense to hoard them.

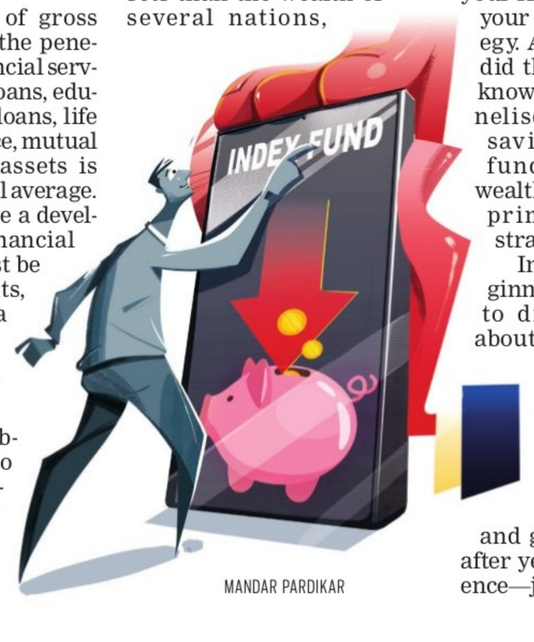
With the evolution of money, it became the way to save. People started hoarding cash and building savings in a bank account. Investing was all about buying real estate. Yet again, hanging on to something that you can touch physically or that is tangible. That continues to date. Although there is a visible increase in savings and investments through financial assets, the penetration of financial products in India remains low. It is perhaps why businesses selling financial products, such as mutual funds, insurance, and banking services, are booming in India. The future of common sense savings and investing is driving the current market value of financial services companies.

As a percentage of gross domestic product, the penetration of most financial services like loans, car loans, education loans, home loans, life and health insurance, mutual funds and equity assets is well below the global average. If India is to become a developed country, its financial services sector must be robust, with deposits, investments, and a vibrant trading activity in the equity, debt, and currency markets.

There is a lot to absorb if you wish to learn about investing. Financial assets are now the asset class for your financial future. Even physical assets like gold and real estate can be held in the form of a tradable security or a mutual fund. If you are new to investing, you do not have the baggage of a history of hoarding your wealth in a physical form.

Once you determine that financial assets are the way forward for your investment life, you fall into this vortex of financial information. There is so much of it that can overwhelm you, and that would be a good enough reason for not absorbing it.

John C Bogle, the founder of Vanguard, a company that probably manages more assets than the wealth of several nations, wrote in 'The Little Book of Common Sense Investing' that the winning strategy is to own all of the nation's publicly held businesses at a very low cost. You will find numerous references to index investing and books written by Mr Bogle throughout the internet. Financial writers choose to quote him to encourage you to start index investing.



MANDAR PARDIKAR

The easiest way to implement his winning strategy is to own an index fund and create wealth for your future self. Benchmark indices like the Nifty 50 and the S&P BSE Sensex have done well for you if you remained invested in index funds for 10 to 25 years. Index funds are designed to mirror the returns of those indices. So, the return generated by benchmark indices is the return you get. When you redeem your investment, you pay only long-term capital gains. It is the most productive asset that you can own effortlessly, beat inflation comfortably and create wealth for your family.

In today's world, index investing can undoubtedly be your first step and probably your only investment strategy. American households did that knowingly or unknowingly when they channelised their retirement savings towards index funds. The household wealth in America today is primarily due to that strategy.

In India, it is just the beginning. If you do not wish to dive deep and learn about the right time to invest, the correct type of assets to invest in, and tax management, you must put your money behind companies that use their capital efficiently and generate profits year after year. It is no rocket science—just common sense.

Coke bottler sees ₹7k cr revenue in FY26

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

SLMG Beverages, one of Coca-Cola's bottlers in India, is targeting revenues of ₹7,000 crore in FY26, backed by expanding manufacturing capacity and focus on sustainable growth.

The Lucknow-headquartered company, operates eight modern manufacturing facilities across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Uttarakhand, has been stepping up investments in new plants and distribution networks.

Vivek Ladhani, director, SLMG, acknowledged EBITDA margins remain under pressure due to rationalisation and fresh investments but expects to stabilise in medium term, with margins returning to 18–20%. Until recently, SLMG was the largest independent Coca-Cola bottler in India. That changed after the Bhartias of Jubilant

Group acquired 40% stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages, Coca-Cola India's bottling arm, giving them control of southern and western markets. SLMG continues to serve key markets of UP, Bihar, and Uttarakhand.

Unlike PepsiCo, which relies entirely on listed bottler Varun Beverages, Coca-Cola works with 15 independent bottlers in India. None of them are listed. Asked if SLMG would consider going public, Ladhani said it may explore a listing in future, subject to Coca-Cola's approval.

Long runway for growth

SLMG caters to 400 million consumers, about one-third of India's population, but per capita consumption in its markets remains 25-30 bottles annually, as against 400–500 in developed economies. Even neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh report higher figures. "This gives us a massive runway for growth. Our target is to grow at 20% annually, three times India's GDP growth. Even during COVID and extreme rainfall seasons, we have never reported single-digit growth," he said.

Sustainability at the core

"Coca-Cola's vision is to return to nature everything we draw from it. We are investing heavily in rainwater harvesting, pond revival, and recharge shafts," Ladhani said, adding that water management will remain at heart of capex plans.

Competition in Cola market

While PepsiCo has consolidated its India operations under a single listed bottler, Varun Beverages, Coca-Cola continues to work with multiple regional partners. At present, there are around 15 bottlers for Coca-Cola in India, though the number has been shrinking.

"Over time, only a few large bottlers will remain," said Vivek Ladhani, Director of SLMG Beverages.

According to Ladhani, competition in the beverage industry is no longer limited to the Coke–Pepsi rivalry.

BOI classifies loan accounts of Reliance Comm as fraud

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BANK of India has classified the loan accounts of Reliance Communications (RCOM), its subsidiary Reliance Telecom (RTL), and several former directors as "fraud." The move comes after a forensic audit pointed to fund diversion and other compliance lapses.

In a filing dated August 23, 2025, RCOM said it received two letters from BOI a day earlier, conveying the decision. The bank's action was based on a forensic audit carried out by BDO India LLP, which found ₹350 crore of loan funds earmarked for operational expenses had instead been parked in a fixed deposit—an action the report described as a violation of sanction terms.

Along with RCOM and RTL, fraud tag has been extended to erstwhile directors including promoter Anil Ambani, Manjari Ashok Kacker, and RTL's former director Grace Thomas, among others. As of August 7, RCOM's =outstanding dues to BOI stood at ₹724.78 crore.

RCOM has challenged the bank's move, calling it legally untenable in light of ongoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). Its resolution professional cited Section 14(1)(a) of IBC, 2016, which bars proceedings against companies under CIRP. It stressed that a resolution plan, already approved by the committee of creditors—including BOI —awaits final clearance from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

LIC to be public shareholder in IDBI Bank

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has cleared reclassification of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as public shareholder in IDBI Bank, a move that paves way for the lender's strategic disinvestment. The approval, which comes with a set of conditions, will take effect once the transaction is completed.

In a regulatory filing on August 24, LIC said the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) had informed it of Sebi's approval, received a day earlier. The decision is a crucial step in the government's plan to privatise IDBI Bank, which was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in May 2021.

Ganguly named head coach of SA20 team Pretoria Capitals

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Sunday named head coach of SA20 team Pretoria Capitals ahead of the 2026 season in what will be his first stint at the helm of affairs of a side. Ganguly, also an ex-BCCI chief, will succeed former England batter Jonathan Trott, whose stepping down from the top job was announced on Saturday.

With 7195 runs, 19 centuries and innumerable Test victories, 37-year-old Pujara announces his retirement from all forms of cricket

BORN TO BAT, CHETESHWAR HANGS HIS BOOTS

15,797 No Indian has faced more balls in Test cricket since Pujara made his debut

99.4 Highest number of balls per dismissals for an Indian since his debut

64.10 Pujara's average against spin since 2013 is highest among Indian batters with 1200 runs or more. Yashasvi Jaiswal averages 77.23 with 1004 runs so far against spin

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THERE it was, the official announcement at 11.11 on a mundane Sunday morning. Cheteshwar Pujara is no longer an active cricketer. After 13 years and 103 Tests, the last of the batting stalwarts from the generation of R Ashwin, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma joined them in the legion of retired cricketers.

"Wearing the Indian jersey, singing the anthem, and trying my best each time I stepped on the field - it's impossible to put into words what it truly meant. But as they say, all good things must come to an end," the 37-year-old posted on social media.

Now, unlike the other aforementioned three, Pujara's retirement does not come as a surprise or a shock. In fact, his last appearance for India came two years ago at the World Test Championship final. And yet, there is a sense of warmth in the adulation and tributes that have followed since his announcement.

For the generation that grew up watching the Indian team through the 90s and 2000s, Pujara was the continuation of their childhood. The connecting factor who took forward the legacy of old school batting into the modern era. For the generation who was raised by IPL, Kohli and Rohit, Pujara gave them peace when he was out there on the 22 yards doing what he was born to do — bat.

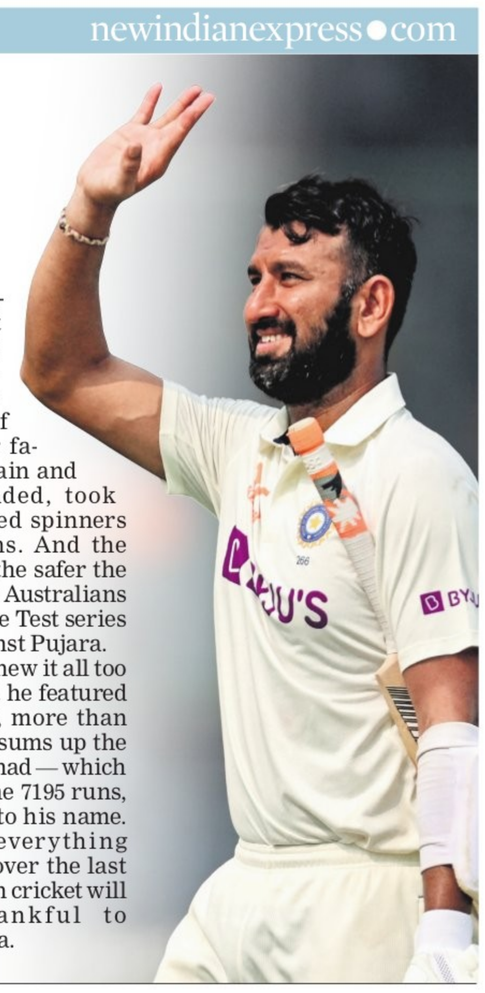
Right from when he was about three, that was all he did. Arvind Pujara, the senior, put a bat in his hand, and made sure Cheteshwar followed. A former first-class cricketer, Arvind hoped and dreamt of making his son an India cricketer and did everything he could to make sure Cheteshwar was on the right path. Together, they aimed for the stars, were willing to put in the work, blood, sweat and toil, and the rewards came along in time. Watching his son walk out for the 100th time in Test cricket is a memory Arvind holds very dear.

In all 13 years of international cricket and more than two decades of professional sport, if there ever was one thing that defined Cheteswar, it was his love for batting. From the time he hit a triple century at U-14 level to his last first-class match (Saurashtra versus Gujarat) at his home ground in Rajkot earlier this year, batting was one constant. It did not matter if he was an India No 3 or someone on the fringes because of his slow batting or someone Indian cricket moved on from, Cheteshwar never moved on from batting, until Sunday.

One example comes to mind. It was Day 1 of the third Test between India and England at Rajkot in February 2024. By then, the selectors had made it clear that they had moved on from Pujara, who was training at the venue along with his Saurashtra teammates for the next Ranji Trophy match against Manipur. Some of the scribes went to meet him during lunch, and he indulged. Cheteshwar checked in on the score, and responded saying it was not ideal to lose three wickets on that pitch for that score. He enquired about the pitch and went on to say that runs will come later. When the conversation veered towards his past records and what he could have done on the surface, Pujara redirected towards his next challenge — batting well and taking Saurashtra into knockouts.

That is just who he was. A polite team man who willed his way through the ranks with his batting. And his batting was as much about time as it was about runs. Watching him go about his routines at the crease can be therapeutic; almost like the comfort of re-watching your favourite sitcom again and again. He defended, took blows, maneuvered spinners and piled on runs. And the longer he batted, the safer the team was. Ask the Australians who lost all but one Test series they went up against Pujara.

Indian cricket knew it all too well. The fact that he featured in 11 SENA wins, more than any other Indian, sums up the kind of impact he had — which goes far beyond the 7195 runs, 19 centuries next to his name. For that, and everything else he has done over the last two decades, Indian cricket will always be thankful to Cheteshwar Pujara.



Worlds battle awaits Sindhu & Co

INDIAN SHUTTLERS WILL BE HOPING FOR A TURN IN FORTUNES WHEN THEY BEGIN THEIR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS QUEST IN PARIS ON MONDAY. A LOOK...

World No 1 vs Lakshya

Despite an improved show in his last tournament, Lakshya Sen has largely had a rough season with as many as seven first-round exits so far this season. Lakshya will have to play out of his skin if he's to avoid that unwelcome trend as he'll be up against World No 1 Shi Yu Qi of China in the Round of 64 on the opening day.

Rd 1: vs Shi Yu Qi | Monday

LIVE ON SPORTS18 NETWORK

Experienced aces seek boost

PV Sindhu is no stranger to winning at this level but she has been a pale shadow of her former self in recent months. Up against young and hungry rivals, the five-time Worlds medallist will be looking to regain her magic. The same goes for HS Prannoy, who has struggled mainly due to injuries and health issues in recent times. Prannoy, a former bronze medallist, will be hoping to spring a surprise.

Sindhu: Rd 1: vs Kaloyana Nalbantova | TBS

Prannoy: Rd 1: vs Joakim Oldorff | TBS

Can SatChi get back to winning ways?

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been the only consistent force for India in recent times. However, they have had their share of doubtful moments. The former World No 1 had briefly endured some tough matches earlier this season and they'll be looking to get back to winning ways at a venue where they have thrived in the past.

Rd 1: Bye | Rd 2: TBS

Eyes on Dhruv and Tanisha

The mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto have been quietly making a steady rise in the rankings (they are World No 17 at the moment) and they'll be looking forward to getting much-needed exposure at the elite level. This could be an event that propels them to a higher level.

Rd 1: Bye | Rd 2: TBS

Step in right direction for Sreeshankar

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

AS the evening settled down, the temperature dipped a bit but the humidity was pretty high. Every now and then the sea breeze would bring in comfort but for one man in the stands, nothing could have calmed him. He seemed more tense than the athletes in the middle.

S Murali is not just long jump exponent M Sreeshankar's coach but also his father. He knew what challenges his ward had to endure in the last 650 days before starting to compete again last month. Sreeshankar seemed relaxed but after each jump he seemed fidgety and at times, not even looking at the electronic board that displayed his jumps. They both knew that the event — National Interstate Senior Athletics Championships — Sreeshankar was taking a shot at was his last chance to seal a ticket at the World Athletics Championships, which is slated to be held next month in Tokyo.

The two had endured some challenging times not so long ago with Sreeshankar taking the longest break of his career so far due to injury and rehab. When the Kerala athlete returned to competitive action in Pune last month, he had crossed the 8-metre mark and on Sunday, he managed 8.06m.

The day's effort earned him a gold medal but the winning jump was not enough to match the Worlds qualification mark of 8.27m. Going by his recovery path, it was always going to be a daunting task for him. Yet, he never gave up. Competing in five competitions in just over a month was always going to be a mountain to climb. "We knew the time was short but we had to give it our best shot," said Murali.

Sreeshankar too echoed the same sentiments but said this would be the end of the season since he will most likely miss the Tokyo flight. Murali felt maybe they should not have gone abroad for competitions. "There was not much competition either because others were having their national championships," he said.

After the aforementioned injury issue, Sreeshankar began proper training only in April. "We had some eight months of rehabilitation in the Inspire Institute of Sport, Bellary last year and then shifted to National Centre of Excellence, Trivandrum in January," he said.

Despite being in a position of disadvantage, Sreeshankar never lost hope. "At this time last year, I did not know if I could be jumping and now I am competing," he said. With the Asian and Commonwealth Games next year and the LA28 in less than years' time, he will now turn his focus on these major events.

Meanwhile, Rohit Yadav was also on the winning side as he pipped Sachin Yadav for gold in the men's javelin throw final. Rohit recorded a best throw of 83.65 metres, which is his personal best, to claim the top prize. After throwing from a higher angle in his initial attempts, Rohit tweaked to make a flatter release of the javelin. That change paid dividends. "After the first two throws, which were a little high, my coaches (Sergey Makarov and Parveer Singh) told me to go flat, and that has got me my personal best," he told reporters.

But Rohit rued missing out on the Worlds qualification mark of 85 metres. "I had the capacity today (Sunday), but I could not (pull it off)," he said.

The final turned out to be a thrilling affair as the throwers kept re-raising the bar until Rohit sealed the deal with his impressive effort. Sachin finished with a best effort of 83.20m. Sachin later revealed that he was unwell. "I came in with a little fever. I can still feel it," he said. Ranked 22 in the world rankings, Sachin has a good chance of making Worlds cut. A clearer picture of his qualification will be known after August 27, when the final list of eligible athletes via world rankings will be released. No one managed to make the Tokyo Worlds in this meet through the direct qualification mark.

As the curtains for the meet was drawn, hosts Tamil Nadu, with a tally of 195 points, were awarded the overall title. Tamil Nadu also won the team championships in both the men's and women's categories.

National Record holder in 400m, Vishal TK, was declared the best athlete in the men's individual section while steeplechaser Ankita Dhyani took home the women's individual award.

M Sreeshankar in action during Inter-State Athletics meet on Sunday | P RAVIKUMAR

RESULTS (WINNERS)

Men: Javelin throw: Rohit Yadav (UP) 83.65m; Long jump: Sreeshankar M (KL): 8.06m; 3000m Steeplechase: Balakishan (HR) 8:51.17s; 4x400m relay: Tamil Nadu: 3:07.53s. Women: 10000m: Ravina Gayakwad: 35:09.57s; High jump: Gobika K (TN) 1.80m; Heptathlon: Anamika KA (KL) 5466 points; 3000m SC: Ankita Dhyani: 9:44.83s; 4x400m: Karnataka: 3.38.29s.

Continental delight for rifle shooter Aishwary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PERFECT shots, technical snags, disastrous shots...the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final had all the elements that makes shooting an exciting watch. Amidst that rollercoaster ride, one man stood out. India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar. Aishwary, 24, was the favourite to win the event with some relatively inexperienced faces in the eight-man final of the ongoing Asian Championships in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. And it was no surprise to witness him get a handy lead with a series of solid hits after the kneeling and prone stages. Towards the end, China's Zhao Wenyu threatened to steal the gold but Aishwary held firm to come out on top with a tally of 462.5. Japan's Naoya Okada finished third.

Senior pro Chain Singh, who suffered a technical snag at the close of first stage (kneeling), finished fourth. He returned with a disastrous 8 after he was forced to pause due to some issue involving his target. Akhil Sheoran also had some disastrous rounds which cost him.

Emma Raducanu plays a forehand return against Ena Shibahara on Sunday | AFP

First victory since 2021 triumph for Raducanu

AGENCIES @ New York

EMMA Raducanu bagged her first US Open victory since her fairytale 2021 title triumph on Sunday with a straight sets demolition of Japanese qualifier Ena Shibahara.

The Briton was in complete control throughout, breaking Shibahara's serve routinely on her way to a 6-1, 6-2 drubbing on the Louis Armstrong Stadium showcourt.

The win was Raducanu's first at the US Open since she made history four years ago, winning the championship as a little-known unseeded qualifier at the age of 18. "I'm very pleased to have come through that match," Raducanu said afterwards. "First rounds are very challenging always, the nerves, and I wanted to win a match here really bad."

Results (Rd 1): Men: Jakub Mensík (CZE x16) bt Nicolas Jarry (CHI) 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-4; Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP x18) bt Alexander Shevchenko (KAZ) 6-1, 6-1, 6-2. **Women:** Polina Kudermetova (RUS) bt Nuria Parrizas Diaz (ESP) 2-2 retired; Tereza Valentova (CZE) bt Lucia Bronzetti (ITA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Emma Raducanu (GBR) bt Ena Shibahara (JPN) 6-1, 6-2; McCartney Kessler (USA x32) bt Magda Linette (POL) 7-5, 7-5.

EXPRESS READ

SAFF U17 C'ships: India women thrash Bhutan

THIMPHU: Anuskha Kumari scored a hat-trick as India thrashed hosts Bhutan 8'0 for their third consecutive win at the SAFF U17 Women's Championships here on Sunday. Besides Kumari's (53rd, 61st, 73rd) stellar performance, Abhista Basnett (23rd, 89th) scored a brace.

Ind A Women lose to Oz A in unofficial Test

BRISBANE: The Australia A top-order fired in unison after off-spinner Amy Edgar completed her five-wicket haul as the hosts defeated India A by six wickets in the unofficial Women's Test. India A folded for 286 in their second innings, setting the hosts a 281-run target. They achieved the target in 85.3 overs.

Golfer Aditi in top 30 with one round to play

MISSISSAUGA (ONTARIO): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok carded an even par round of 71 on the third day of the CPKC Women's Open to sit tied 29th on the leaderboard. The 27-year-old golfer from the country (71-69-71) now has a score of two under par at the Mississaugua Golf & Country Club.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Commonwealth C'ships: Mirabai returns to action

AGENCIES @ Ahmedabad

TOKYO Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will return to competitive action on Monday after a year-long hiatus, leading the home challenge at the Commonwealth Championships where Indian weightlifters are expected to bag a rich medal haul. Chanu, who has battled injuries in recent years, was last seen at the Paris Games, where she missed the podium by a kilogram.

With the new Olympic weight categories in force for the 2028 LA Games, the 31-year-old has decided to move down from the 49kg division to 48kg, a weight class in which she won her world championship title and two Commonwealth Games medals, but hasn't competed in it since 2018. Managing the weight will be a challenge, and Chanu herself has admitted it. But the tenacious Manipuri, who has collected almost every accolade the sport has to offer, has embraced it. Working closely with chief coach Vijay Sharma, she has also been fine-tuning her technique in pursuit of the elusive 90kg snatch.

Pacer Achyuth impresses ahead of Ranji Trophy

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

KEEPING in mind their past struggles, Tamil Nadu are looking to put together a strong pace attack ahead of the upcoming Ranji Trophy. Thus all the Tamil Nadu selectors right from chairman K Shri Vasudeva Das watched both the TNCA President's XI and TNCA XI fast bowlers with rapt attention in the Buchi Babu tournament at Gojan grounds on Sunday. Both the games ended in a draw.

Apart from captain and left-arm spinner Sai Kishore, pacers Sandeep Warrier, Gurjapneet Singh, Sonu Yadav will be the key bowlers for the state. The place for the fourth seamer is up for grabs. CV Achyuth and D Deepesh are strong contenders for the fourth bowler slot. The duo playing for the TNCA President's XI and TNCA XI respectively bowled with a lot of fire and vigour at the adjacent grounds. Former first class cricketer and a key member of the selection panel S Srinivason who watched the matches admired the way both Achyuth and Deepesh bowled.

''Both Achyuth and Deepesh are very good prospects for the state. Both bowled with good rhythm and hit the deck. Very pleased with our talent pool,'' said Srinivason.

Achyuth, who took three wickets against Maharashtra, was happy with the way he bowled. He also spoke to Prithvi Shaw and Mukesh Choudhary of Maharashtra after the game to seek their inputs as to how to bowl better. ''It was a good feeling to pick three wickets against Maharashtra because there wasn't much from the wicket. And I bowled the correct lengths for this surface, because it was a little slow compared to the other wickets that we have played,'' said Achyuth.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

BRIEF SCORES

At Gojan 'B': TNCA President's XI 384/9 & 4/2 in 5 ovs **drew with** Maharashtra 228 in 74.1 ovs (Prithvi Shaw 66, Harshal Kate 62, CV Achyuth 3/50). **At SSN:** Himachal Pradesh 144 & 74/2 in 15.4 ovs **drew with** Chhattisgarh 227/6 decl in 65.4 ovs (Rishi Sharma 51, Apoorav Walia 3/57). **At TI-Murugappa:** Baroda 176 & 182/9 in 45 ovs (Vanshaj Sharma 4/74, Abid Mushtaq 4/78) **lost to** J&K 280 & 82/0 in 24.3 ovs (Yawar Hassan 48 n.o.). **At SRMC (Turf):** Odisha 222 & 184/8 in 45 ovs (Akash Pandey 4/64) **lost to** Indian Railways 210 in 60.5 ovs (Zubair Ali Khan 80, Sumit Sharma 4/110, Badal Biswal 3/57) & 197/5 in 38 ovs (Dinesh Mor 67). **At Gojan 'A':** TNCA XI 414/8 **drew with** Haryana 207 in 63.2 ovs (Lakshya Dalal 73, DT Chandrasekar 5/67). **At IITM:** Mumbai 266 **drew with** Bengal 325/5 in 90 ovs (Aditya Purohit 122). **At MRF-Pachaiyappa's:** MP 230/9 & 230/8 in 45 ovs (Mangesh Yadav 75, Prerit Dutta 3/89) **lost to** Punjab 395/9 decl in 88 ovs (Uday Pratap Saharan 109, Anmol Malhotra 87, Aditya Mishra 5/93) & 68/4 in 6.2 ovs (Aditya Mishra 3/31). **At Guru Nanak:** Jharkhand 283 & 130 in 25.3 ovs (Tanay Thyagarajan 4/74, Aniket Reddy 3/25) **lost to** Hyderabad 330 in 82.4 ovs (P Nitish Reddy 106, Rahul Radesh 70, Manishi 3/84, Rishav Raj 3/67) & 89/8 in 22.3 ovs (Rishav Raj 5/44, Manishi 3/39).

Man Utd held by Fulham, Everton win in new stadium

AGENCIES @ London

MANCHESTER United remain without a Premier League win this season after being held 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday, while a Jack Grealish-inspired Everton opened their new stadium with a 2-0 victory over Brighton. Ruben Amorim's United were left to rue Bruno Fernandes' wayward first-half penalty as they were pegged back at Craven Cottage.

Rodrigo Muniz's own-goal put United in front, but Emile Smith Rowe came off the bench to rescue a point for Fulham.

Results: Fulham **1-1** Man Utd; Everton **2-0** Brighton; Palace **1-1** Forest.

Everton's James Garner celebrates after scoring the second goal on Sunday | AP

Barca fight back to win

VALENCIA: Barcelona fought back from two goals down at Levante to win 3-2 on Saturday, while Atletico Madrid were held 1-1 by Elche.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SSC PHASE-13 RE-EXAM	SSC CHSL 2025	WBPSC MISC. MAINS 2023
Date: August 29	Date: September 8–18	Date: August 31

In the wake of a new US visa regime seen as aggressively anti-international student, experts, in conversation with **Karthikeya S,** warn Indian aspirants not to do anything that puts them on the radar — and to consider other options

SURVIVING TRUMP 2.0

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EDITION

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

WITH the fall admission cycle to American universities underway, uncertainty looms for international students. Under President Donald Trump's tighter visa regime, many Indian students fear their chances of approval are slimmer. Let's look at the data: About 6,000 international students in the USA had visas revoked in the last 9 months, while new visas issued to Indian students declined by 30 per cent. A report by the Institute of International Education found 35 per cent of US colleges declaring falling enrolments this year. Data from June 2025 shows Indian arrivals down by 46 per cent. Concerns deepened when the USA halted visa interviews in June and resumed them with enhanced social media scrutiny. The mood, say experts, is grim. "Students are reconsidering going to the USA for higher education," says Anusha Bheri, Managing Partner at Bheri Overseas.Students already in the US are warning their relatives against applying. "Due to the new salary criteria for H-1B visas and the lack of clarity on OPT, students are finding it difficult to sustain themselves," she says.

This begs the question: Is the American Dream now distant for Indian students?

reality check

Fear & misinformation rife

Several experts point to widespread misconceptions about the new visa regime, fuelled by panic and ignorance. The most prevalent myth is that the Trump administration has banned Indian students. "Bad news travels faster. There is no ban on Indian students, just more scrutiny — on all international students," clarifies Anusha. Many experts also point out that the USA cannot afford to impose such a ban. "US universities depend heavily on international talent — not only for tuition revenue but also for research and innovation. Nearly 54 per cent of US STEM graduate students are international," Vibha Kagzi, Founder & CEO of ReachIvy, points out. That universities are accepting international students, while the administration isn't, is also false, says Manisha Zaveri, Joint MD, Career Mosaic. She adds, "Several students are not only receiving their visas but are already in the USA."

Law & order, not racism

While Trump's detractors call these changes racist and xenophobic, supporters see this as "putting America first." Experts suggest a middle ground: that the new rules aim to ensure international students comply with US laws. "If I invite someone to my place, I would like them to behave themselves. The same is the case with the USA's new rules," says Saurabh Arora, Founder & CEO of University Living. He adds that the regime addresses issues such as improper documentation, overstaying, flouting traffic rules, and displaying "anti-American sentiments".

Manisha says, "The USA is expecting international students to be more accountable for their behaviour, and adhere to US laws. They face the same scrutiny as all other immigrants." Vibha adds that Indian students have little to fear, as such "disruptive behaviour" has not been observed. "They often have a very hectic academic life," she points out. She adds that visa rejections are now due to weak applications and interviews, not discrimination.

More options for students

While one might speculate endlessly on the intent of these rules and their fallout, students are already looking beyond the USA. Experts cite the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Germany as reliable alternatives, and the UAE, China, Singapore, Japan and South Korea as emerging contenders. "These countries offer diverse, more affordable programmes, post-study work opportunities, and even citizenship pathways," Anusha says. Manisha says, "If they want academic rigour, they choose American universities. If they want settlement pathways, they choose countries that provide them." Students may also turn to transnational education, studying at US universities' offshore campuses to reduce immigration risks while retaining academic quality. "They could split their education between the US and other partner countries," Vibha says.

35% of US colleges reported falling enrolments this year

46% drop in Indian arrivals to US (June 2025)

"You know that you aren't there to break any rules or dupe the system. If your intentions are proper, there's no need to be afraid."

Manisha Zaveri, Joint MD, Career Mosaic

Better safe than sorry

For students sticking with US plans, the advice is simple: obey the law. Maintain a full course load, report address changes, avoid unauthorised work, and be mindful of social media. Focus on strengthening your profile and upskilling. "Create value for your university, community, and employers. If you want to stay beyond education, provide a compelling reason," says Saurabh.

CHANGE IN TIDE!

How US policy on international students changed between presidents

GIVEN how popular the USA is as a study-abroad destination, international students often keep a close eye on the American Presidential Elections, because their dreams of studying there can rise or fall depending on who wins. Sure enough, those dreams took a sharp turn after Republican candidate Donald Trump defeated Democratic nominee and former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 race. Almost immediately, Trump reversed several of the previous administration's policies on international students.

HERE'S A LOOK AT STUDENT VISA RULES UNDER DONALD TRUMP AND FORMER PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

	TRUMP	BIDEN
Visa appointments & interviews	Longer processing; no waivers. Visa interviews froze mid-2025; resumed with stricter social-media checks.	Relaxed the appointment & interview process post-COVID, increased interview waivers.
Screening process	AI-driven "catch & revoke" programme targeting international students. Visas revoked for "politically sensitive" reasons.	Maintained routine checks and regular vetting procedures without additional monitoring mechanisms.
Duration of Stay (D/S)	Proposal to restrict D/S period cleared by the White House.	Indefinite period while maintaining OPT status, typical for F-1 visas.
Post-study work pathways (OPT, H-1B)	No formal rollback of OPT, wage-based H-1B visas introduced.	Extended STEM-OPT in 2022 and curbed multiple H-1B sponsorships per applicant.
Visa revocations and deportations	Students had visas revoked and faced deportation for skipping class, traffic violations, and even brief encounters with law enforcement.	No mass revocations or deportation of international students.

SIT FOR SAT

Everything you need to know about SAT in 2025

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration, Changes, & Cancellation Deadline
Sept 13	Aug 29	Sept 2
Oct 4	Sept 19	Sept 23
Nov 8	Oct 24	Oct 28
Dec 6	Nov 21	Nov 25

Mode: Fully adaptive online

Duration: 2 hours 14 minutes

Modules: Evidence-Based Reading & Writing (EBRW) (54 questions, 800 marks)
Mathematics (44 questions, 800 marks)

Total marks 1600

THE SAT UNLOCKS SEVERAL DOORS IN THE USA FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, SUCH AS:

- **Admission to top US Universities:** A SAT score above 1300 enhances a student's admission application and opens doors to more competitive universities.
- **Merit scholarships & financial aid:** Universities are introducing transparent score-linked scholarship policies, giving high-achieving students a tangible advantage.
- **Research programmes:** A good SAT score shows a student can handle the intellectual demands of university-level research programmes.
- **Pre-college internships:** Several US pre-college programmes now use the SAT as an objective measure of readiness for advanced work.
- **Leadership & experiential learning programmes:** Several leadership programmes also see SAT scores as a benchmarked measure to gauge the potential of students and applicants.

Universities accepting SAT scores

Harvard University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Columbia University
EBRW: 730-790	EBRW: 720-770	EBRW: 700-780
Math: 730-800	Math: 770-800	Math: 710-790
Yale University	**University of California, Berkeley**	**Cornell University**
EBRW: 730-780	EBRW: 730-720	EBRW: 680-760
Math: 730-800	Math: 630-760	Math: 720-800

Trump's war on campuses

Why universities are being targeted, and their reactions

ONE of the first steps taken under the Trump presidency was an alleged "crackdown" on elite universities, including Harvard, Columbia, Brown and others. A Department of Justice probe into reported campus antisemitism after pro-Palestine protests soon expanded into funding cuts, a DEI clampdown, lawsuits, tighter monitoring of international students and visa revocations. While some institutions sued for injunctions and issued defiant statements, others capitulated to DoJ pressure.

Columbia University

ACTION: • $400 million in federal funding frozen • Investigations by the DoJ & the Department of Education

REACTION: • Reached a settlement of $220M with the Trump administration • Agreed to mask ban at protests, hire 36 security officers, and uphold university neutrality

Harvard University

ACTION: • Over $2 billion in federal grants frozen • Proclamation banning international student enrolments

REACTION: • Sued the Trump administration against international student ban & research fund cuts • In talks for a $500 million settlement, with similar conditions as Columbia

Brown University

ACTION: • Federal research grants worth over $510 million halted • Investigations launched into alleged antisemitism, "racial bias" in admissions process

REACTION: • Agreed to invest $50 million over 10 years in Rhode Island workforce programs • Removed race-based concessions, diversity quotas in admissions

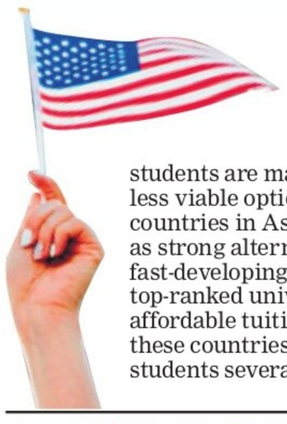
University of California (Los Angeles)

ACTION: • $584 million in federal grants frozen • Trump administration demanding settlement of $1 billion, as well as policy concessions

REACTION: • Filed legal pushback, secured restoration of $81 million in federal funds • $1B Trump settlement demand condemned by California Governor Gavin Newsom

LOOK EAST

Asian Alternatives to the American Dream



WHILE restrictions on international students are making the USA a less viable option, several countries in Asia are emerging as strong alternatives. With fast-developing economies, top-ranked universities, and affordable tuition & living costs, these countries offer Indian students several benefits.

China

Popular streams: Computer Science, Engineering, Medicine

Cost: ₹2.2L to 9L per year

Top Universities: Peking University, Tsinghua University, Fudan University

Singapore

Popular courses: Engineering, Business, Data Science

Cost: ₹6L to 12L per year

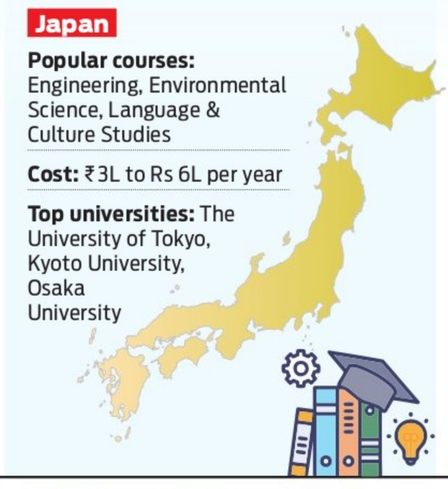
Top universities: National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore University of Technology and Design

Japan

Popular courses: Engineering, Environmental Science, Language & Culture Studies

Cost: ₹3L to Rs 6L per year

Top universities: The University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University



United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Popular courses: Business Administration, Engineering, Hospitality & Tourism

Cost: ₹8L to Rs 15L per year

Top universities: United Arab Emirates University, Khalifa University, University of Sharjah

South Korea

Popular courses: Korean Language & Culture, Science, Engineering & Technology, Design & Fashion

Cost: ₹2.6L to Rs 4.25L per year

Top universities: Seoul National University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology, Yonsei University

Information compiled by Karthikeya S

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DAY'S DIARY

Interstellar record

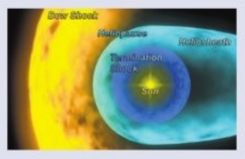
Voyager 1 became the humanity's first object to enter interstellar space on this day in 2012. The historic announcement came from NASA

LAUNCH

Voyagers 1 and 2 were launched in 1977 to take advantage of a favourable alignment of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, and are now exploring interstellar space

TRIVIA

As of 2024, Voyager 1 is over 24 billion kilometers (15 billion miles) from Earth. NASA engineers considered 10,000 plus trajectories for the mission



TRAILBLAZER

According to NASA, the Voyagers are the first to pass through the heliosheath, which exists somewhere from eight to 14 billion miles from the Sun

What's happening in namma ooru?

PG 2

With the Indian Institute of World Culture celebrating its 80th anniversary, here's a glimpse of its rich past – from founder BP Wadia's involvement in the freedom movement to Martin Luther King Jr's visit to the city

A view of Indian Institute of World Culture

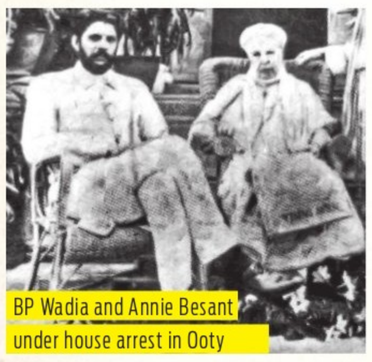
A WORLD OF CULTURE

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

LOCATED in the bustling streets of Basavanagudi, the quaint Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) has thrived for longer than the country has been independent. In fact, the institute, which recently celebrated its 80th anniversary on August 11, was opened in the midst of World War II's conclusion. "It so happened that on August 10, there was news that Japan had laid down arms. So World War II was ending the previous evening, when the Indian Institute of World Culture was born," says secretary Arakali Venkatesh.

A fitting start for an organisation, whose founder, BP Wadia, envisioned it to be "an academy not only for scholars, but for ordinary people, universal brotherhood was the foundational pillar. He wanted to introduce people here to art and culture across the world," notes Venkatesh.

Bizman-turned-freedom fighter



BP Wadia and Annie Besant under house arrest in Ooty

Born into a merchant family, Wadia inherited his father's textile business after his passing in 1900, only four weeks after he began working there. By 1904, the business was thriving, but when he was introduced to the writings of Madame HP Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society, a larger purpose captured his spirit. He sold his business to offer his services to society, dedicating himself to the cause of universal brotherhood and later working closely with Annie Besant. He also became a trade union pioneer, starting the first labour union in the country – The Madras Labour Union. He was house arrested in Ooty along with Besant and GS Arundale for his involvement in the Indian Home Rule Movement. "In the 1920s, he represented India at labour conferences, which used to happen in the US at that time, and was a known face in the freedom movement. In 1938, he moved to Bengaluru and started a theosophical lodge. He was also a prolific writer who wrote 30-odd books and a columnist on various subjects – from family to world peace and music," explains Venkatesh.

Early days

The old library (left) and the newly renovated one (right) at IIWC

Located on a large campus, it's hard to imagine the institute housed in a small shed, but that's how it started off – a few hundred metres away from its current location. "Before 1949, the institute was in a rented space of a bungalow owned by a US-based couple. They had 300 books accessible to the public and held book discussions," explains Venkatesh, adding that today, Tenbroeck Academy stands in its place.

Recalling a story told to him by 96-year-old former Chief Justice of India MN Venkatachaliah, who chairs the advisory committee of the IIWC, Venkatesh shares, "He talks about this British gentleman named Ct. Lal Kaka. He used to organise at least one world music listening session every month on a gramophone. He stayed back in Bangalore even after 1947." He adds, "Back in the day, only the affluent had gramophones at home. People used to travel just to hear the recorded music."

Kings, Musicians and Monks

S Radhakrishnan and Martin Luther King Jr. at IIWC

Martin Luther King Jr's crucial leadership in the American civil rights movement, and his admiration for Mahatma Gandhi is common knowledge but his visit to Bangalore in February 1959 isn't. "Justice Venkatachaliah, who was there at the time, recalls that the Wadia Hall could only accomodate 200 people, so they used to put up a speaker in the 30-acre park (KR Rao Park) opposite the institute and over 500 people gathered to listen to him," he says. "There is a common thread between the civil rights movement and the Indian freedom movement – he spoke on those lines. Our visitor's book even has a signed note by him saying the experience was wonderful," he adds.

Another guest who drew a crowd as large as King's was Pandit Ravi Shankar in 1960, when he was touring the world. The Panchen Lama, the second spiritual authority in Tibetan Buddhism after the Dalai Lama, also spoke here in 1956, three years before the latter had to flee to India in the wake of Chinese persecution and the Panchen Lama was placed under house arrest.

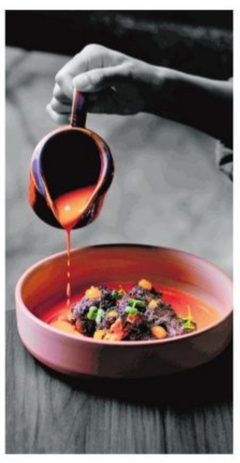
"In the decades since it was founded, the who's who of the cultural world came here. Nobel laureates, like Donald Glaser visited, and so did Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and S Radhakrishnan," states Venkatesh.

CLASSICAL TAKE

Padma Shri Shubha Mudgal takes centre stage at Sabha BLR for a rendition of her timeless melodies, at an event organised by Aadyam Handwoven

CITY READ

New rooftop brew garden opens in Marathahalli



Namma ooru now has a new rooftop destination with the launch of The Jamming Goat's brew garden in Marathahalli. Spanning 6,500sqft, the space is defined by bold design elements, including a dramatic octopus-shaped light installation. The menu highlights seafood with dishes like tandoori coconut lobster, lemon herb prawns, and spicy octopus stir fry. Conceptualised by Avinash Kapoli and chef Sombir Chaudary, the venue is open from 12pm to 1am.

Japanese eatery brings authentic comfort food to Bengaluru

Foodsta Kitchens, the team behind Nasi and Mee, has launched Kokoro, a new Japanese restaurant at One Shobha Mall on Church Street. The restaurant offers a fresh take on Japanese comfort food, featuring dishes like gyoza, chicken karaage, and bowls of spicy miso and shoyu ramen, while the signature don bowls include chicken katsu don and veg rainbow don. With menu starting at ₹260, the eatery invites diners to savour authentic Japanese flavours. amid the city's dynamic culinary landscape.

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ACTOR DHRUVA SARJA AND DIRECTOR SURI IN TALKS FOR A PROJECT

P4

XPRESS FOCUS

Christ University Seminar Revisits Bengaluru's PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Department of International Studies, Political Science and History at CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, recently hosted a National Seminar on the theme 'Bangalore Histories'. The event explored the city's layered pasts and reflected on how these continue to shape its present and future. Moving beyond Bengaluru's popular image as an "IT Hub" or the "Silicon Valley of India", the seminar examined its prehistoric roots, colonial past, urban growth, cultural heritage, and lived traditions.

The seminar was inaugurated with a welcome address by Dr Madhumati Deshpande, Head of the Department, who highlighted the city's remarkable journey. The gathering was graced by Dr Fr Jose CC, Vice Chancellor of CHRIST University, who noted how Bengaluru's industrial parks, scientific institutions, and rapid economic growth remain grounded in its rich historical legacy.

Introducing the seminar, Dr Anna Varghese, Convenor, emphasised its role in connecting the personal with the academic and the local with the historical, marking the beginning of a wider scholarly conversation on the city. Dr Jayasankara Reddy K, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, highlighted Bengaluru's milestones—from being the first Indian city to be electrified to its pivotal role in the freedom movement—while noting how the seminar bridged disciplines including history, sociology, politics, and economics.

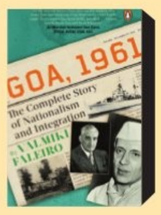
The keynote address was delivered by Prof Janaki Nair (Retd.), Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, who revisited the imagined mutiny of 1832 in Bengaluru's history.

Keynote Address by Prof. Janaki Nair, Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU (retd.)

Other speakers included Dr Srikumar Menon, Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; Dr Nikhil Das, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad Circle; Dr Vagishwari SP, Professor (Retd.), CHRIST University; Dr Nalini Sekaran, Professor of History and Dean of Social Sciences, Jyoti Nivas College, Bengaluru; and Menaka Rodrigues, Executive Director, India Foundation for the Arts, Bengaluru.

The seminar also featured selected student presentations of academic posters on the theme 'Food and Flavours of Bengaluru: Culinary Heritage Across Centuries'.

BOOK NOOK

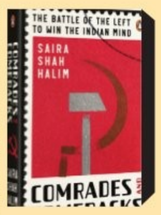


Goa, 1961
By Valmiki Faleiro

The subject of the liberation of Goa in 1961 and its integration into the Indian Union in 1962. What were the events that led to the 36-hour military operation, possibly the first since Independence that occurred entirely at India's initiative? What role did Goans play?

The Sunshine Project
By Uma Krishnaswami

Anil loves karate, his friends and the solar power project he has been championing in his community. He doesn't love having to speak up — as his karate sensei says, best fight, no fight. One day, staying quiet isn't an option anymore.



Comrades and Comebacks
By Saira Shah Halim

This book tries to sketch a rich historical narrative that foregrounds left politics in world history, locates its relevance in India and charts a future of its revival.

Tiger Slayer
By Ruby Lal

More than four centuries ago in India, a Muslim woman ruled a magnificent empire: Nur Jahan, whose name means 'light of the world'. Nur led troops into battle atop an elephant, hunted tigers, designed public buildings, and issued coinage and royal decrees in her own name.

ONE-WOMAN SHOW

Actor-politician Umashree captivates audiences with her solo play *Sharmisthe* at Ravindra Kala Kshetra on JC Road | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

CHEESE CORN BALLS

INGREDIENTS

- **Boiled sweet corn:** 1 cup (crushed)
- **Cornflour, breadcrumbs:** 1 tbsp each
- **Garam masala, chilli powder:** 1 tsp each
- **Grated cheese:** 1/2 cup
- **Oil:** 2 cups
- **Salt:** to taste

METHOD

- In a bowl, combine boiled corn, grated cheese, cornflour, breadcrumbs, salt, and pepper.
- Make small, smooth balls from the mixture.
- Roll each ball in extra breadcrumbs to coat evenly.
- Rest for 15-20 minutes to set the shape.
- Deep fry in hot oil on medium flame until golden and crispy. Serve hot with sauce.

Contributed by **Veda Bai,** Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Is it true that dogs should not be fed chicken or mutton bones? The khichdi we give her does have few bones but they are well pressure cooked.

As a veterinarian, I advise against feeding dogs chicken or mutton bones. Cooked bones tend to splinter, which can lead to choking, internal injuries, or digestive blockages. While bones that are thoroughly pressure cooked, like those in khichdi, may be softer and less risky, it's still safer to avoid giving bones altogether. Instead, provide boneless, well-cooked meat or appropriate dog treats. Always observe your dog closely if they consume anything with bones, and consult your vet immediately if you notice any signs of distress or discomfort. Your dog's safety is the priority.

FITBIT

THE CASE FOR WARMING UP: WHY SKIPPING IT CAN COST YOU

We all know the rule of thumb for a healthy lifestyle — move at least 4-5 times a week, whether that's a brisk walk, a run or a gym session. But there's one crucial step that often gets ignored: the warm-up. Many either cut it short or skip it altogether, not realising that those few minutes can make or break their workout.

WHAT IS A WARM-UP?

A warm-up is a low-intensity routine done before exercise to prepare the body for physical activity. It increases blood flow to the muscles, raises core temperature and reduces the risk of injury. Warm-ups are of two types:

- **Non-specific warm-ups:** Simple activities like jogging or cycling that elevate the heart rate.
- **Specific warm-ups:** Movements tailored to the upcoming workout. For instance, slower-paced walking before a brisk walk, or mobility drills before a strength session.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- **Injury prevention:** Warm muscles are less prone to tears and sprains.
- **Better flexibility and stability:** Improves range of motion and joint support.
- **Increased blood flow:** Delivers oxygen efficiently to working muscles.
- **Nervous system activation:** Helps recruit more muscle fibres for better power and technique.
- **Improved mind-muscle coordination:** Prepares the brain to sync with movement patterns.

COMPONENTS OF A GOOD WARM-UP:

- **Heart rate elevators:** Gradually raises heart rate without spiking it (spot jogging, jumping jacks).
- **Mobiliser drills:** Improves joint mobility and elasticity (cat-camel stretch, world's greatest stretch).
- **Dynamic stretching:** Prepares muscles for explosive movements (lunge twists, jump squats).
- **Multi-planar movements:** Mimics real workout movements across directions and ranges.
- **Muscle activation:** Primes specific muscle groups you'll target in your workout (glute bridges before squats, good mornings before deadlifts).

HOW LONG SHOULD IT LAST?

While the duration depends on the workout and fitness level, most warm-ups fall between 3-10 minutes. The intensity should feel moderate — enough to cause light sweating but not exhaustion. Beginners and advanced athletes share the same warm-up components, but intensity and complexity differ.

DO'S AND DON'TS:

Do's

- Focus on muscles you're about to train.
- Incorporate core activation and balance drills.
- Progress intensity gradually.

Don'ts

- Never skip the warm-up.
- Don't exhaust yourself before the workout.
- Avoid irrelevant or non-specific movements.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Next time you're tempted to skip it, remember: warm-up isn't wasted time, it is what makes everything else flow better.

By Abhishek K, fitness expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Guide Yourself

Whether you're a native Bengalurean or not, this self-guided audio tour will help you discover iconic landmarks like the Chinnaswamy Stadium or Visveswaraya Museum. Enjoy at your own pace, and rediscover the city's charm.

WHEN: August 25, 12pm
WHERE: Sri Chamarajendra Park, Ambedkar Veedhi
DETAILS: eventbrite.com

Croon Tunes

Step back in time and let the soulful melodies of the past mesmerise you. Part tribute to these iconic tunes and part chance to jam out loud, experience music that defined generations.

WHEN: August 25, 8pm
WHERE: Silaa - The Garden Cafe, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Neon Glow-Up

Join a fun and interactive event for art enthusiasts who love experimenting with neon bold creations. This immersive workshop offers a hands-on experience suitable for both beginners and seasoned artists, fostering creativity and artistic expression.

WHEN: August 25, 3pm
WHERE: Social, Church Street
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comedy Fix

Whether you're a comedy enthusiast or just in the mood for some laughs and good vibes, this event is for you. From dark comedy and satire to lowbrow humour and witty observations, there's something to tickle everyone's funny bone.

WHEN: August 25, 6pm onwards
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
DETAILS: district.in

Just Breathe

The world's hustle and bustle can be overwhelming. Join this event, take a break and immerse yourself in silent tranquillity, cultivating awareness that brings clarity and peace.

WHEN: Until August 27, 4pm onwards
WHERE: Art of Living International Center, Kanakapura Road
DETAILS: bangaloreashram.org

Tag! You're it!

Join a fun-filled session that's more than just a play date! Kids get to jump, bounce, and explore, while parents get a chance to relive their childhood, and what better way than trampolines and foam pits?

WHEN: August 25, 10.30am
WHERE: Skyjumper Trampoline Park, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: skyjumpertrampolinepark.com

Sweet Tooth Reboot

This Ganesh Chaturthi, treat yourself with modak, Lord Ganesha's favourite sweet. Enjoy the delicacy with family and celebrate the festival with joy and flavour.

WHEN: Until August 28
WHERE: All outlets of Anand Sweets and Savouries
DETAILS: www.anandsweets.in

ARTCORNER

AT DAYBREAK

Artist Ramdas Lobhi paints a woman in her sunlit courtyard, busy in the daily rhythms of life

THE GREAT INDIAN CHAPATI TALE

In the month of Independence, CE revisits the 1857 'Chapati Movement' and other amusing layers of the flatbread's history

SHRIMP & PINEAPPLE NAAN

Ingredients

- Naan: 2
- Olive oil: 1 tbsp (plus more for brushing)
- Shrimp: 16/20, peeled and deveined
- Honey: 1 tbsp
- Adobo sauce/ chipotle sauce: 1 tbsp
- Salt: 1 tsp
- Chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Garlic: 2 cloves, minced
- Black pepper: To taste
- Lime: 1, juiced
- Cheese: 220 gm
- Pineapple: 1 cup, diced
- Sour cream: 1/2 cup
- Cumin powder: 1/2 tsp
- Avocado: 1 medium, halved, pitted and peeled
- Coriander leaves: 1/4 cup

Method

Preheat the oven to 218 degrees C. Put the naan on a baking sheet and brush with olive oil. Bake until slightly browned. Set aside. Keep the oven on. Add the shrimp, olive oil, honey, adobo sauce, salt, chilli powder, garlic, some pepper and half of the lime juice to a bowl. Mix everything. Now, saute shrimps in a pan over medium heat for 3 minutes, until cooked. Layer some of the cheese on the naan. Now, place the pineapple and shrimp between two. Sprinkle some more cheese on top. Bake until the cheese melts, around 3 minutes. Add sour cream, cumin, avocado and remaining lime juice to the bowl in a blender and mix until smooth. Garnish the naan with feta cheese or the remaining cheese. Add the avocado mixture and the coriander leaves.

PARVANA K B

CHAPATI, a simple yet beloved staple, holds a timeless place on Indian plates. Its charm lies in its versatility, pairing effortlessly with vegetables, pulses, non-vegetarian dishes, or even sweet accompaniments, offering a balanced meal that is satisfying without being heavy.

This bread travelled across regions and centuries, evolving into the soft, practical flatbread used in India today. More than just food, chapati stands for sustenance, adaptability, and the way culinary traditions have blended over time through history and everyday life. And like an oldest companion at the table, it has many stories to tell.

Origins

According to Britannica, chapati's name comes from the Sanskrit 'carpat ', meaning 'thin cake,' which is derived from the word carpata or 'flat.' This refers to the traditional method of shaping chapatis by slapping them between the palms of the hands. It is said to be even mentioned in the Sanskrit texts.

Historical references place its roots in the Indus Valley Civilisation, from where it spread to regions of Southeast and Central Asia, East Africa, and the Caribbean. Some accounts suggest the journey may have been reversed, with chapati first appearing in East Africa and later reaching the Indian subcontinent via traders. Its simple shape and long shelf life made it an ideal travel food, helping it become a staple across diverse cultures.

The 'chapati' mystery

In India, the legacy is not just limited to kitchens. In 1857, this everyday bread found itself at the centre of one of India's most curious episodes in the Indian freedom struggle – the Chapati Movement.

What began as a baffling relay of flatbreads, passed from one village to the next, soon covered vast stretches of north India. Night after night, people carried fresh chapatis hundreds of kilometres, with no clear explanation. They appeared in towns, hamlets, and even police outposts, most of the time alone, sometimes alongside odd companions like lotus flowers.

The first to pull at the thread of the mystery was Mark Thornhill, the magistrate of Mathura. His inquiries revealed that chapatis were travelling astonishing distances, sometimes up to 300km. From the banks of the Narmada in the south to villages near the Nepal border in the north, the flatbread was on the move, faster than the mail service of the time.

The Brits were perplexed. Was it a warning, a secret code, or a strange ritual? Some believed it was a symbolic call to unite against colonial rule. There were rumours that notes of rebellion were being circulated through the chapatis.

Whatever its purpose, the sheer speed and scale of distribution unsettled colonial officials and fed an atmosphere already thick with suspicion.

By the time the Revolt of 1857 erupted, the chapati had already done its work. And in the Indian history of the freedom struggle, it carried a sense of unity, passing from village to village as if stitching the land together. Over time, the story of these travelling chapatis became a symbol of resilience and resistance.

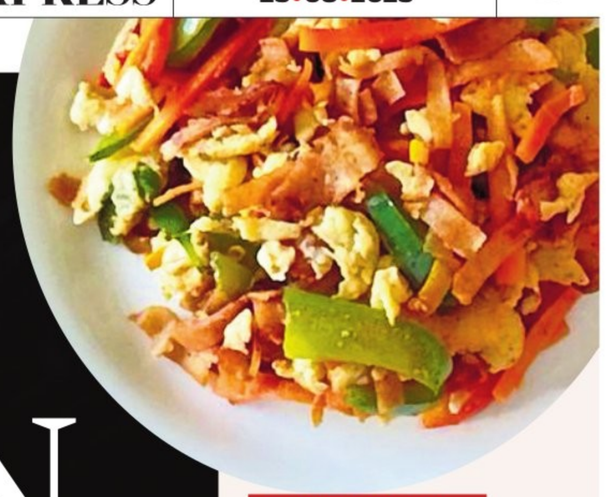
CHICKEN-YOGHURT TACOS

Ingredients

- Flatbreads: 2
- Limes: 2
- Cumin powder: 1/2 tsp
- Turmeric powder: 1/2 tsp
- Yoghurt: 2 1/2 cups
- Salt: To taste
- Black pepper: To taste
- Chicken tenders: 8
- Oil: For the grilling pan
- Olive oil: 2 tbsp
- Cucumber: 1/2, sliced
- Cherry tomatoes: 8, sliced
- Feta cheese: 1/4 cup
- Onion: 1/4, small and thinly sliced
- Coriander leaves: 1/4 cup

Method

In a bowl, take juice of 1 lime, add cumin, turmeric, 1 cup yoghurt, 1 teaspoon salt and a generous amount of black pepper. Mix well. Add chicken tenders, toss until well-coated. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour or overnight. In another small bowl, add juice of half of a lime, 1/2 cup yoghurt and 1 tablespoon water. Mix well and refrigerate. Cut the remaining lime into wedges and set aside. Add the marinated chicken pieces to a pan for grilling after removing some of the batter. Cook about four minutes per side, till well-cooked. Spread each flatbread with a tablespoon of the yoghurt sauce kept in the fridge. Add 2 chicken tenders onto the bread, a little bit of cucumbers, tomatoes, cheese, onion and coriander. Pour a bit of the remaining yoghurt sauce and add salt and pepper. Fold the bread like a taco and serve immediately with lime wedges.



CHAPATI NOODLES

BY AMMU JINTO

Ingredients

- Leftover chapatis: 3
- Eggs: 3 (scrambled)
- Butter: 1 tbsp
- Garlic: 1 tbsp, finely chopped
- Carrot: ½ cup, thinly sliced
- Capsicum: ½ cup, thinly sliced
- Beans: ½ cup, thinly sliced
- Onion: ½ cup, thinly sliced
- Tomato: ½ cup, thinly sliced
- Pepper: ½ tsp
- Tomato sauce: 1 tbsp
- Soy sauce: 1 tbsp
- Salt: To taste

Method

Roll up the chapatis and slice them into thin strips, resembling noodles. Heat butter in a pan. Add chopped garlic and saute for about 30 seconds until fragrant. Add the sliced carrots, capsicum, beans, onion, and tomato, and season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook on a medium flame for 5 minutes until the vegetables are tender. Add the scrambled eggs to the pan along with the chapati strips. Pour in the tomato sauce and soy sauce. Increase the heat and stir-fry everything together on high flame for about 2 minutes, ensuring the chapati strips are well-coated with the sauces. Serve hot.

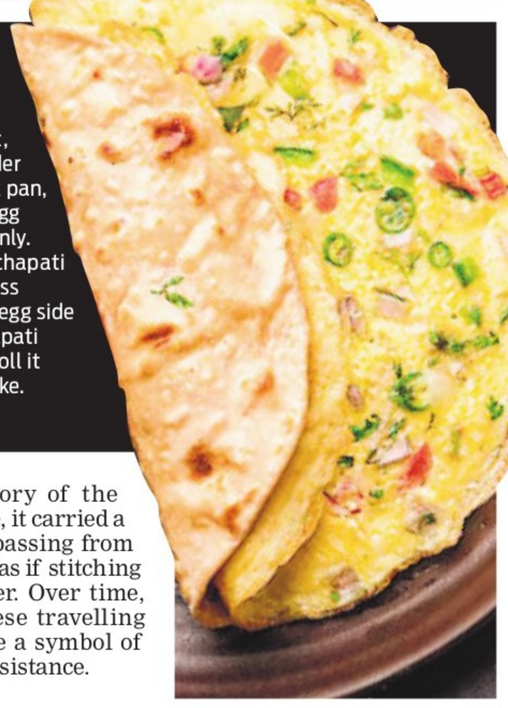
CHAPATI EGG ROLL

Ingredients

- Leftover chapati - 1
- Egg- 1
- Small onion – 1 finely chopped
- Green chilli – 1 finely chopped
- Coriander leaves – 1 tbsp chopped
- Salt – to taste
- Pepper – to taste
- Oil or butter - 1 tsp

Method:

In a bowl, beat the egg with salt, pepper, onion, chilli, and coriander leaves. Heat a tawa or non-stick pan, add oil or butter, and pour the egg mixture onto it, spreading it evenly. Immediately place the leftover chapati over the wet egg so it sticks. Press gently with a spatula. Once the egg side is cooked, flip it to toast the chapati slightly. Remove from the pan, roll it tightly, and cut it in half if you like.



SMART ADS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA GORABAL** and **KALPANA C,** R/ at Kushtagi Taluka, Mudenoor, PO Mudenur, Dist. Koppal, Karnataka - 583278, we have changed my daughters name from **SOUBHAGYA C** to **SOUBHAGYA C GORABAL** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 22-08-2025, sworn before Notary J. Anand Kumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRUSHRUTH KAMBRAL** S/o K **LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDY** R/at No. 324, Kurugodu Taluku Gowdara Oni Near Dyavamma Temple Dammuru Ballari-583116 have changed my name to **SRUSHRUTH KAMBRAL LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDY** vide affidavit dated: 23/8/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARUN KUMAR** (Old Name), S/o SONAPPA HENNUR APPAYANNA, Aged about 35 years, Resident at NO.11, SRI BYRAVESHWARA NILAYA, DODDAGUBBI, BENGALURU-562149, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **ARUN KUMAR** (Old Name) to ARUN **KUMAR SONAPPA** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARUN KUMAR SONAPPA** (New Name)for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 23/08/2025 before Notary **B.N.GANGARAJU** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SULTAN ALI NASSUR, R/at E 7, Uniworth Tranquil Doddabele Road, Near Kengiri Police Station, Bangalore-560060, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SULTAN ALI ZAHID NASSUR** to **SULTAN ALI NASSUR** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SULTAN ALI NASSUR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-08-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASHA .C,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ASHOKA, S/o Lakshmaiah, aged about 49 years, R/at No.313, 3rd main, 7th Cross, lakshmidevinagara, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASOKAN** to **ASHOKA** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ASHOKA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-08-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R. SULAKSHANA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SWAYAM PRABHA.S, W/o G Shankar, aged about 62 years, R/at No.140, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Bapuji layout, Chandra layout, Vijayanagar Bangalore District-560040, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SWAYAM PRABHA DHONDLEY** to **SWAYAM PRABHA.S** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-08-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **M. VENKATARAMANA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I , **PRABHUKUMAR VENKATASWAMY,** residing at #264, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, BSK III Stage, Channammanakere Achukattu, Bengaluru 560085, Karnataka State have changed my daughter's name from **ANANYA PRABHU** to **SIRI ANANYA PRABHU,** vide affidavit dated" 23.08.2025 before Notary **MEER HASSAN,** Bengaluru.

AF FIDAVIT
I, **JYOTI DAURBI**, aged about 39 years, Residing at A704 Brigade Golden Triangle Kattamanallur Cross, Bengaluru-560049, do hereby declare that by mistake my name is mentioned in my passport as **JYOTI** instead of **JYOTI DAURBI,** that my Actual and correct name is **JYOTI DAURBI**, vide affidavit dated 22.08.2025, sworn to before Rajanna .S.M, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAILAJA MANDEKAR**, Aged about 46 years, D/o. Late Mr. Goverdhan Rao Kadam, Residing at No. B 905, Platinum City, HMT Watch Factory Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, do hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **SHAILAJA MANDEKAR** to **SHAILAJA KADAM** vide affidavit dated 19.08.2025 sworn to before G.B. Turamari, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TRISHA HUDDAR**, D/o. Arun Vasant Huddar and Wife of Dr. Laksh Mital, Aged about 32 years, Residing at 54, 2nd Cross, AECS Layout, Ashwathnagar, RMV II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 094, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **TRISHA HUDDAR** to **TRISHA HUDDAR MITAL** vide affidavit dated 14.08.2025 sworn to before Jalandhara, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ABOOBACKER ABDULLA, S/o. Abdulla K.K, and Resident of No. 13, 10th Cross, 2nd Main Road. Valmikinagar, Mysore Road, Bangalore 560 026, have changed my name to **ABOOBACKER K K** vide affidavit dated: 02.08.2025 before advocate and notary R. Basavaraja, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AMULLYA R S, aged about 24 years, D/o. Sri Shivashankar .R, residing at: GF-4, Ground Floor, Everest Enclave, BEML 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, hereby declare that my names **AMULLYA R S and AMULYA R S** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **AMULLYA R S** Vide-affidavit dated 23-08-2025. Sworn before advocate and Notary, K.V. Prema Kumari, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Anvithaa, D/o Mr. Haleppa, aged about 28 years, DOB: 05-06-1997 and Resident of No.10, 3rd Cross, Mithun Reddy Building, Green Glen Layout, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103. India. have changed my name to **ANITA** vide affidavit dated: 19.08.2025 before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHREYAS SRINIVAS HARITHAS,** Residing at #338 Srinilaya, 9th Main, 14th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, have changed my name from **SHREYAS SRINIVAS HARITAS** to **SHREYAS SRINIVAS HARITHAS,** vide affidavit sworn before Notary M Ananthamurthy dated 21/08/2025

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **THENMOZHI PALANI,** W/o. Sri. Shanmugam, aged about 46 years, R/at: No.42, 7th Main, Madiwala Hosapalya, Bengaluru 560 068, I declare that I, being the mother of **Balaji P** my name has been entered as **SEETHA PALANI S** instead of **THENMOZHI PALANI** In future my name has been entered as **THENMOZHI PALANI** and my son's name has to be entered with initial as **BALAJI P** instead of **P.OM BALAJI** in his School Records and other relevant documents., vide affidavit dated 12/8/2025 sworn to before K Ramegowda Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADAPURA TIPPAPPA RASHMI** have changed my name as **MADAPURA NAGARAJAPPA RASHMI** Residing at No 79, Sumukha Nilaya, 4th Cross, Brundhavana Nagara, Shiva Temple Kariobanahalli Post Nagasandra Bangalore-560073. Karnataka, India, as per affidavit dated 22-08-2025 sworn before me notary public, Bangalore,

NAME CONFIRMATION
I, Service No. 13621730W, Rank : SEP, Name : MALEPPA CHARANI of Unit DSC PL 10 attach with 2 ASD (18 FAD) Pin No. 909182, C/o. 56 APO. Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under. That in my Service Document records the name of **My Daughter is Wrongly written as SANJANA, but her Correct Name is SANJANA MALEPPA CHARANI** as per School Document Records, Birth Certificate, Aadhar Card etc. That I want rectification in my service documents record of **My Daughter's name as SANJANA MALEPPA CHARANI instead of SANJANA,** vide affidavit dated 22-08-2025, Sworn to before **Advocate & Notary NIJAGUNARADHYA .T.C, Bengaluru.**

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The makers dropped 'Idre Nemdiyaag Irbek,' starring Darshan, a fan anthem that has gone viral with millions of views within hours of release

12:12 felt special, and we decided to arrive with *The Devil* on that day: Prakash Veer

CE FEATURES

DARSHAN'S much-awaited film *The Devil* has officially locked its worldwide theatrical release for December 12, with the makers coupling the announcement with a fan anthem.

Director Prakash Veer revealed the thought behind the choice of date, saying, "We wanted a date everybody would remember. 12:12 felt special, and we decided to arrive on that day. The film involves considerable CG work, and we are taking time until mid-November to ensure the visuals meet the scale we envisioned."

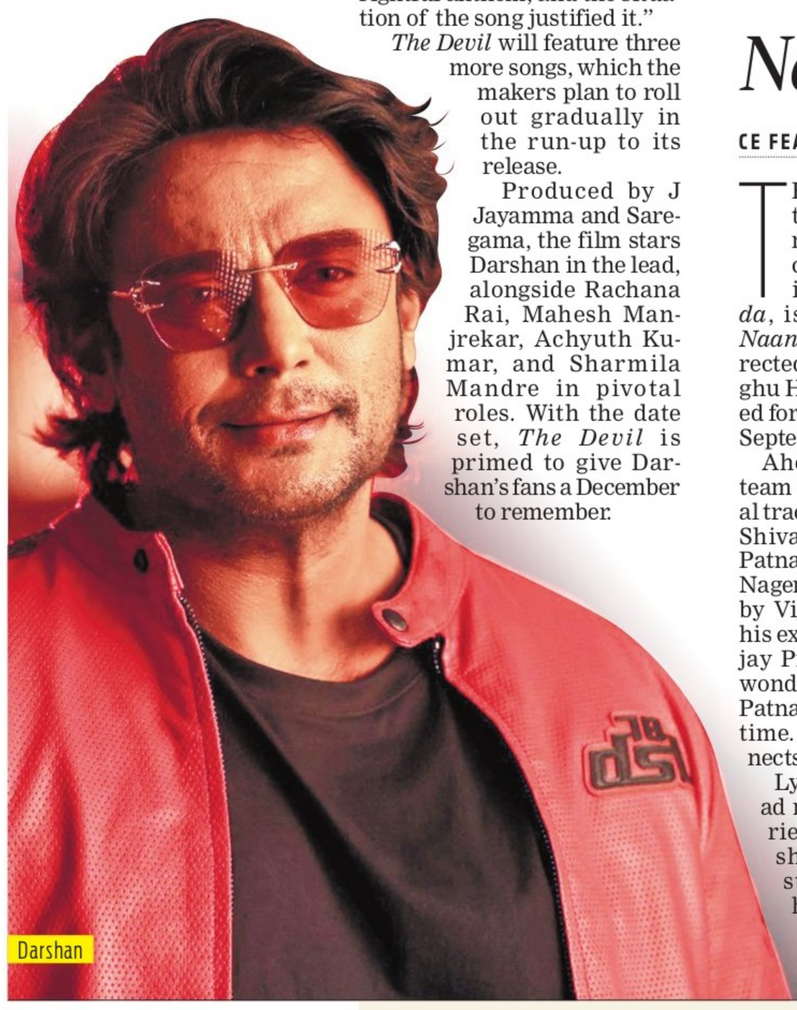
The buzz around the release gained further momentum with the track 'Idre Nemdiyaag Irbek,' composed by B Ajaneesh Loknath, written by Nagarjun Sharma, and sung by Deepak Blue. Choreographed by Santhu Master, with costumes designed by Prakash Veer himself, the song not only showcases a vibrant look and feel but also teases dual shades of Darshan's character. Within hours of release, it clocked millions of views, becoming an instant anthem among Darshan's fans.

What makes the track stand out is its spirit as it turns the spotlight back on the audience. The lyrics, blending swagger with gratitude, present Darshan as 'dasa' to his admirers while hailing them as the true celebrities. Lines like 'Nanu Badkod For The Fansu,' 'Namma Bhaashene Nange Pradhaana,' and 'Yeshte Saahukaara Idru Oorigoore Kondkondidru Nanna Preetsovru Maatra Nange Celebritiesu' showcase the energy of a mass anthem.

Prakash Veer said, 'Idre Nemdiyaag Irbek' was made for the film because it demanded this situation. It belongs to the fans as much as to Darshan, with its energy, words, and arrangement leaning into the madness that surrounds him. The line from the song was discussed a lot before its release, and while many personal references were drawn, at its core, it celebrates the relationship between films and audiences. We wanted to give that bond its rightful anthem, and the situation of the song justified it."

The Devil will feature three more songs, which the makers plan to roll out gradually in the run-up to its release.

Produced by J Jayamma and Saregama, the film stars Darshan in the lead, alongside Rachana Rai, Mahesh Manjrekar, Achyuth Kumar, and Sharmila Mandre in pivotal roles. With the date set, *The Devil* is primed to give Darshan's fans a December to remember.



Darshan

DHRUVA SARJA IN EARLY TALKS TO COLLABORATE WITH DIRECTOR SURI

With *KD* gearing up for release, speculation mounts that the Action Prince may join hands with the cult filmmaker behind *Duniya* and *Tagaru*

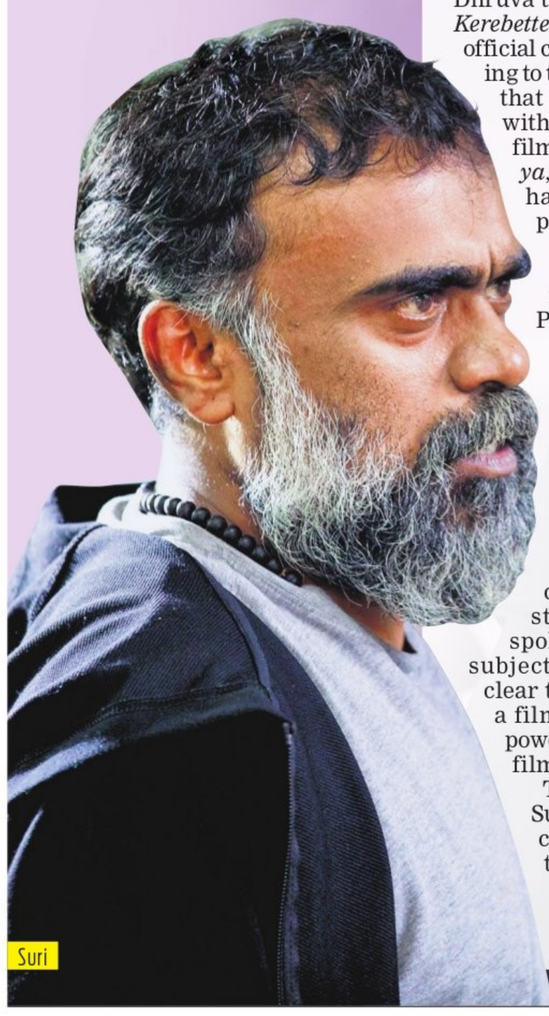
A SHARADHAA

WHILE Dhruva Sarja is gearing up for the release of his much-anticipated pan-India outing *KD*, directed by Prem and backed by KVN Productions, buzz around the actor's upcoming project have already started. Dhruva Sarja, who has been in discussions with multiple production houses, is said to be cautious, holding out until he finds the right story.

In recent weeks, speculation has linked Dhruva to a possible collaboration with *Kerebette* director Raj Guru, though no official confirmation has emerged. Adding to the curiosity, *CE* has now learnt that the actor is currently in talks with none other than Suri — the cult filmmaker behind films like *Duniya*, *Anna Bond*, and *Tagaru*. As we had earlier reported, Suri was preparing to begin his long-planned collaboration with Yuvarajkumar, a film intended to follow *Ekka*, in association with PRK Productions, Jayanna Films, and KRG Studios. However, sources say that the project has been put on hold and pushed further due to undisclosed reasons. As a result, the director is currently considering other avenues, including a potential team-up with Dhruva Sarja.

According to reports, the conversations are in the early stages. "They've met, they've spoken, but they're yet to lock a subject," says a source. "Both are clear that if it happens, it has to be a film that matches Dhruva's star power and Suri's uncompromising filmmaking style.

The idea of Dhruva Sarja and Suri uniting is bound to spark excitement. Whether the speculation will turn into an official announcement — and which production house will back the project — remains to be seen.



Suri

Dhruva Sarja

Naanu Matthu Gunda sequel locks September release date

CE FEATURES

THE emotional bond between a dog and its master, which struck a chord with audiences in *Naanu Matthu Gunda*, is back in the sequel, *Naanu Matthu Gunda 2*. Directed and produced by Raghu Hassan, the film is slated for a statewide release on September 5.

Ahead of its debut, the team unveiled the devotional track "Om Shivaya, Namo Shivaya", composed by RP Patnaik with lyrics by Dr. V Nagendra Prasad and vocals by Vijay Prakash. Sharing his excitement via video, Vijay Prakash said, "It feels wonderful to sing again for Patnaik's music after a long time. I hope this film connects with audiences."

Lyricist Nagendra Prasad noted, "This song carries many layers. Lyrics shouldn't spell out the story, but they should hold its essence. This track touches the heart and will have a bigger impact on screen."

Team Naanu Matthu Gunda 2

Reflecting on the journey, director Raghu says, "We began this project in 2022, and now it's finally releasing. Patnaik's tune instantly brought Nagendra Prasad to mind, and Vijay Prakash delivered it beautifully. I wanted to move away from over-the-top storytelling and create something emotional—that's how Gunda's story was born. The censor board cleared the film with a U/A certificate. After Shankar dies in the first part, the story continues with his son, played by Rakesh Adiga, whose world revolves around the dog."

Also starring Rachana Inder as the female lead, the film was shot across Ooty, Shivamogga, Thirthahalli, Balehonnur, and Bengaluru. Releasing under the Poem Pictures banner, *Naanu Matthu Gunda 2* features six songs by Patnaik with a background score by Ritvik Muralidhar. The sequel also introduces Simba Jr., the son of Simba, the dog, who appeared in the first part.

A still from the film

The heart is in the right place, but the execution keeps tripping

LOVE MATTERU

Director: Virata Bilwa

Cast: Virata Bilwa, Sonal Monteiro, Achyuth Kumar, Suman Ranganathan, Anitha Bhat, and Sushmitha Gopinath

A SHARADHAA

LOVE matteru, maga,' a phrase often overheard on campuses or in small-town hangouts, tossed around with ease, a casual shrug that explains everything from awkward silences to reckless choices. Virata Bilwa seizes on this colloquialism and stretches it into a full-length narrative, searching for drama in the casualness with which we treat broken hearts.

The film opens on a cheeky note with King Ramanna (Lokesh Achar) performing a morning pooja at a liquor shop. It is the kind of scene that tells you right away this is not a polished fairytale, but a story rooted in small-town oddities where liquor shops, heartbreak advice, and failed romances sit side by side.

Dilip, or Dil (Virata Bilwa) as he insists on being called, carries himself with the arrogance of a man who believes emotions can be outrun on a motorbike. Yet, like most 'love matter' veterans, he soon realises swagger does not shield him from betrayal. His instant attraction to Shalini (Sushmitha Gopinath) collapses when he discovers she loves someone else, and in that quiet defeat, he stumbles into Varsha (Sonal Monteiro), another bruised heart nursing her own wounds. Their romance is not fireworks, but two people awkwardly testing if broken pieces can fit together again.

The real surprise of the film is not the young romance, but the track involving Athmaram (Achyuth Kumar) and Shyamala (Suman Ranganathan), played with aching simplicity. Watching them circle back into each other's lives feels like stumbling upon an old song you once loved and forgot. The way they negotiate age, regret, and leftover tenderness is perhaps the film's most honest stretch.

Virata Bilwa wears two hats here, as lead actor and debut director, and the weight of that ambition is felt. He wants to please everyone: the college crowd that craves bike rides and bar banter, the family audience that expects sentiment, and the multiplex-goer who enjoys layered emotions. As a result, *Love Matteru* is bursting with ingredients—betrayal, action, songs, comedy—but like a curry with too many spices, the flavour is not always consistent.

RATING 2.5/5

The screenplay sways unevenly. Some scenes linger unnecessarily, while crucial moments such as the climax rush past without giving us time to breathe. There is an old-world charm in its attempt to say, "Don't jump to conclusions after heartbreak, think before you act," but the telling of that message feels patchy.

Still, the film offers scattered pleasures. Shadrach Solomon's music finds moments of lift, especially when paired with lyrics that carry weight. Achyuth Kumar and Suman Ranganathan shine in roles that deserve a film of their own. Sonal Monteiro lends Varsha the right measure of gentleness, while Anitha Bhat makes for a sharp foil as the antagonist. Virata Bilwa himself is confident, though less convincing when the mask of bravado slips.

So, what is *Love Matteru* finally? It serves as a reminder of how casually we use that phrase, as though heartbreak were a mere inconvenience. The film insists that love matters, even in its failures. However, while the heart of the film is in the right place, the craft keeps tripping up. You walk out, not dismissing it entirely, but wishing the narrative had matched the rawness of the title itself.